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Implementation of and follow-up to major international United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 64/213, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, including the state of the substantive, organizational and logistical preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It is also submitted in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit an analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

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1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 64/213 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/13, chap. II), adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001 (hereinafter referred to as the "Brussels Programme").[1]

2. The first section contains a report on the preparations for the Fourth Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The second section provides an overview of the progress made towards the international goals and targets contained in the Brussels Programme, which will feed into the preparations of the Fourth Conference. The latest available data on the goals and targets are provided in the annex. The third section examines responses of the least developed countries to the financial and economic crisis and is followed by conclusions.

I. Preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

3. As the focal point for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (hereinafter referred to as the "Fourth Conference"), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (hereinafter referred to as "Office of the High Representative") continues to play a key role in mobilizing United Nations system-wide support and contributions for the Conference. To guide and facilitate the preparatory process for the Conference, the Office of the High Representative has prepared a concept note and a road map. The concept note spells out the organizational approach, mandates and specific activities to be undertaken in the preparation for the Conference at the country, regional and global levels. It also highlights challenges facing the least developed countries, including high levels of poverty, lack of diversification and weak productive capacities, as well as the challenges posed by the multiple crises of food and energy, and the global financial and economic crisis.

4. In its resolution 64/213 the General Assembly welcomed the offer of Turkey to host the Fourth Conference and set the dates for the two preparatory committee meetings, the first to be held from 10 to 14 January 2011 and the second from 18 to 25 April 2011.

5. Given that the Conference is a major undertaking of the entire United Nations system, the Office of the High Representative has initiated consultations with various Secretariat bodies, including the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Safety and Security, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and others to consult on the preparation of the host country agreement. Consultations with the Government of Turkey on the agreement

[1] The present report was prepared with the cooperation of all United Nations system organizations.

as well as the logistical and substantive organization of the Conference have also started.

6. Furthermore, the Office of the High Representative has stepped up its advocacy work for the least developed countries in preparation of the Fourth Conference. Several newsletters have been published, seminars have been organized and a dedicated website was launched, which is providing regular updates on the preparatory process.[2]

Intergovernmental preparations

7. The preparatory process for the Conference has been underpinned by a bottom-up approach, starting with the country-level preparations feeding into regional- and global-level preparations. Broad-based national-level consultations were launched successfully in 2009 with the support of United Nations resident coordinators, involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including Governments, parliamentarians, civil society and private sectors. These consultations culminated in a results-oriented, analytical and forward-looking report on the implementation of the Brussels Programme. As of 30 April 2010, nearly 30 least developed countries have submitted their national reports. The national-level preparations fed into the regional-level preparations.

8. As decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227, two regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth Conference were convened. The first regional review meeting — the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries — took place at the ministerial level. It was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010 and organized in cooperation with the Office of the High Representative and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Asia-Pacific least developed countries attended, including Yemen, as well as other member States and major stakeholders of the Brussels Programme, including the United Nations system, relevant regional organizations, development partners, private sector representatives and civil society organizations. The meeting adopted the Dhaka outcome document, which was endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-sixth annual session, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in May 2010.

9. The second regional preparatory meeting was organized jointly by the Office of the High Representative, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa. It took place in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 March 2010 at the ministerial level and was attended by Government officials from 25 African least developed countries, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, private sectors, bilateral and multilateral partners as well as regional organizations. The Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting was preceded by the civil society gathering on the review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme, jointly organized by the Office of the High Representative, ECA and LDC Watch, in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 March 2010. The outcome of the civil society gathering was presented to the Africa Regional Review meeting. The outcome of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting was endorsed by the Third Annual Joint African Union Conference of Ministers of

[2] Available from https://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home.

Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which took place in Lilongwe on 29 and 30 March 2010.

10. The outcome documents of the two regional review meetings concluded that, while progress had been made in some areas of the Brussels Programme of Action, the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action remained an unfinished agenda and the goal of poverty reduction illusive. Moreover, the gains made by the least developed countries were being eroded by the multiple crises of food, energy and climate change, and the current global financial and economic crisis. Against this backdrop, the meetings called for a strengthened and enhanced global partnership for least developed country development. This partnership must bring focused attention to:

(a) Strengthening productive capacities to build resilience and reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to external shocks;

(b) Promoting agricultural development to reduce hunger and ensure food security;

(c) Strengthening resource mobilization and targeting aid to productive sectors;

(d) Improving market access;

(e) Developing infrastructure;

(f) Managing climate change and ensuring a new green deal for the least developed countries;

(g) Ensuring universal access to essential services and accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

11. **The United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders need to ensure that the outcomes of the national- and regional-level preparations are carried forward during the preparatory process.**

Coordination of United Nations system-wide preparations

12. The Office of the High Representative, in consultation with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, has also finalized the list of thematic pre-Conference events to be organized by various United Nations agencies and organizations. The first event was jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Office of the High Representative in Vienna on 3 and 4 December 2009 on the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on the least developed countries' productive capacities and trade: threats and opportunities. The resulting Plan of Action has the objective "to achieve economic diversification among least developed countries in order to enhance food security and productive capacities and to reduce vulnerability to external shocks". This would be implemented with a two-pronged approach that would concentrate on policy, strategy and research on the one hand, and demonstration projects related to the research work, on the other. The outcomes of the pre-Conference events will form important substantive inputs to the outcome document of the Fourth Conference.

13. In addition, several United Nations system organizations have been cooperating with the Office of the High Representative in the preparation of expert meetings. Least developed country concerns have been discussed at various forums within and outside the United Nations system. The Office of the High Representative organized two interagency consultative group meetings during 2009 to coordinate the United Nations-system activities.

14. **The United Nations system and other international organizations should reinforce their contributions towards the preparations for the Fourth Conference and ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially from least developed countries, in these activities.**

Civil society involvement

15. To ensure participation by a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the Conference, the Office of the High Representative held numerous consultations with civil society representatives, especially from the least developed countries, to mobilize civil society input into the preparatory process and the Fourth Conference. A concept note has been prepared to guide civil society participation and substantive contributions to the Conference, and to set the structure for the civil society track.

16. The preparation and implementation of the civil society activities for the Fourth Conference will be overseen and directed by a Steering Committee. A secretariat will be established to facilitate, implement and follow up the decisions of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will meet at least four times during the preparatory process. Two of the meetings will be scheduled to coincide with the meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

Partnerships with other key stakeholders

17. Given the important role that parliaments play in implementing international commitments, the Office of the High Representative has also initiated consultations with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to mobilize parliamentary involvement in the Fourth Conference. A guide on mobilizing parliamentary support for the Brussels Programme was issued jointly with the Union. Parliamentarians participated in national and regional reviews, and a separate parliamentarian forum will be organized during the Fourth Conference. This should help in strengthening parliamentary ownership in the follow-up and implementation of new international support measures.

18. Preparations for the active involvement of the private sector in the preparatory process have also started. As the private sector plays a pivotal role in the structural transformation of the economies of the least developed countries, especially with respect to enhancing productive capacity and diversification, it is important to identify concrete, action-oriented proposals addressing specific problems of the least developed countries and challenges in the area of investment, enterprise development and finance. To this end, a forum on investment for least developed country development is being planned.

Resource mobilization

19. The Office of the High Representative prepared a project document to mobilize resources to support the substantive preparations for the Fourth Conference. Following the submission of the document, the High Representative initiated consultations with representative donor countries, emerging donors and international organizations to mobilize resources for the Fourth Conference and its preparatory activities. It should be noted, however, that the response by member States as of April 2010 has been muted, with the notable exception of India and Turkey.

20. **Given the importance of adequate financial resources for the successful preparation and organization of the Conference, donors should provide timely and adequate financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries to support the substantive and logistic preparation for the Conference.**

II. Progress in achieving the internationally agreed goals and commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action

Commitment 1
Fostering a people-centred policy framework

21. Despite a decline from the record 8.4 per cent in 2007, the average growth of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008 in the least developed countries was still relatively high, reaching the target of 7 per cent. However, there remain huge differences, with 11 countries exceeding the 7 per cent target, 10 of which are in Africa. By contrast, 12 countries experienced growth below 3 per cent, with only 1 in Asia and the others in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean. GDP growth of African oil exporters well exceeded the target, with an average of 9.6 per cent, but was down from 13.1 per cent in 2007, driven by the oil price drop in the second half of 2008. Interestingly, African non-oil exporters even increased GDP growth slightly from 6.6 per cent in 2007 to 6.8 per cent in 2008.

22. By contrast, GDP growth in Asian least developed countries dropped by almost two percentage points to 5.2 per cent in 2008. In the Pacific GDP growth dropped from 7.4 per cent in 2007 to 3.5 per cent in 2008. This was driven in part by the increase in transport costs, which started to affect tourism, and the decline in GDP in Samoa, which was hit by a tsunami. Average GDP growth of the least developed countries in 2009 is estimated to be only half of the average for the period from 2000 to 2008.

23. Per capita GDP in real terms in the least developed countries increased at around the same pace as the average for all developing countries, from $327 in 2000 to an average of $467, with wide variations among individual least developed countries. In several least developed countries, especially in Africa, per capita GDP even declined over the period, driven by both low GDP growth and relatively high population growth rates, which still averaged 2.7 per cent in 2008. The main channel through which GDP growth and poverty reduction are linked is through employment creation, especially in the form of decent work, but data are very scarce for the least developed countries.

24. Still more than half of the population of the least developed countries lives below the poverty line identified in Millennium Development Goal 1. The latest available data show that in 60 per cent of the least developed countries extreme poverty affected more than 50 per cent of the population and only six countries experienced poverty rates of less than 30 per cent.[3] However, there has been significant progress in poverty reduction in 17 of 24 countries for which data exist.

25. Poverty is closely related to hunger and there has been a corresponding reduction in the number of least developed countries with very high rates of undernourishment. In no Asian least developed country for which data exist does undernourishment exceed 45 per cent of the population, which largely corresponds to the poverty figures. Recent research reconfirms a strong association of hunger and gender inequality, especially in education, but also in health provision.

26. Many least developed countries are net food importers, which increases their vulnerability to drops in export earnings and capital inflows. For example, imports accounted for more than 30 per cent of grain supplies in 12 African least developed countries. Nearly half of the least developed countries are considered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as experiencing a food crisis requiring external assistance or being at risk of crisis owing to high commodity prices, which are likely to remain higher and more volatile than in the past decade. Given the increasing importance of biofuels, even an increase in cereal yields may not necessarily reduce prices, as grain prices might be determined by oil prices in the future. Thus, there is an urgent need to focus more on the agricultural sector, which is discussed under commitment 4.

27. **The very limited progress with regard to poverty reduction and high risk of falling into poverty highlights the need not only for creating employment and increasing agricultural productivity but also for stepping up social protection with a focus on strengthening human capacities in most least developed countries. Currently, their expenditure on social protection is among the lowest in the world. Measures that have been successfully introduced in some least developed countries include school feeding programmes, cash for work, targeted transfers and risk insurance related to agricultural production and health. The factors that lead to the success of such measures need to be understood better and best practices should be shared among the least developed countries.**

Commitment 2
Good governance at the national and international levels

28. As the prime responsibility for their development lies with the least developed countries and ownership is a core element of the Brussels Programme, developing capacities of Governments is critical. In most least developed countries appropriate institutional arrangements may not be in place, mechanisms for fostering leadership development are weak, incentives for attracting and retaining qualified professionals

[3] The results now available from the 2005 International Comparison Programme provide the first set of global purchasing power parities (PPP) since 1993 for the calculation of international poverty estimates by the World Bank. Work on revising the international poverty line to $PPP1.25 and recalculating poverty estimates for low- and middle-income countries has now been completed.

in key institutions (including from the diaspora) are lacking and participatory mechanisms for constituency engagement are limited. Good governance is a broad concept in the Brussels Programme, ranging from the promotion of human rights to social inclusion and empowerment, but it contains no explicit targets related to governance.

29. Tax revenue is a crucial precondition for functioning Governments. In most least developed countries the ratio of tax revenues to GDP has been very low, with five countries even reporting rates below 10 per cent and nine countries showing rates from 10 to 15 per cent in recent years, of 18 countries for which data exist for 2002 to 2008. However, in some countries there has been progress with regard to increasing Government revenue in the past few years, driven in part by high commodity prices.

30. **To reduce dependency on foreign aid, the share of Government revenue to GDP should be increased through reforms of tax collection and more taxation of luxury consumption and the informal sector, as has been introduced by Senegal.** Likewise the Government of Bangladesh has taken measures to increase domestic resources through better compliance, collecting arrears and extending the value-added tax (VAT). It plans, inter alia, to introduce full automation of tax and customs administration, shorten the list of tax exemptions, expand the existing tax base and improve and strengthen the monitoring of tax collection.

31. Combating corruption is crucial for increasing the effectiveness and transparency of Government expenditure. To date, 32 of 49 least developed countries are States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and 6 are signatories. Haiti, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Timor-Leste ratified the Convention in 2009. Of the least developed countries that are States parties, 14 completed the original Convention self-assessment checklist, which considered 15 articles of the Convention. Only Bangladesh has completed the Convention compliance and gap analysis, which is a compliance review that compares national anti-corruption legislation and practice with the Convention and determines the extent to which the country complies with Convention requirements.

32. The extractive industries transparency initiative, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2008, is also gaining momentum in the least developed countries. Fifteen least developed countries have been candidate countries as of April 2010, having completed the sign-up phase and working towards full implementation of all initiative principles and criteria. Liberia is the first least developed country that was evaluated as initiative-compliant on 14 October 2009. Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo disclosed mining revenues for the first time in 2010.

33. Likewise, some least developed countries have made progress in addressing gender issues in their second and third generations of poverty reduction strategy papers by involving gender equality advocates in policy dialogue mechanisms for the elaboration and monitoring of the papers and making poverty diagnosis more gender sensitive. Fourteen countries have been undertaking gender responsive budgeting initiatives, including gender in national planning processes, developing

gender sensitive indicators to monitor budget processes and gender responsive budget allocations to address women's priorities.[4]

34. As of April 2010, 16 least developed countries exceeded the world average of 20 per cent women in national parliaments, with 6 even exceeding 30 per cent, which is considered an important threshold to influence politics. Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide since the election in September 2008, with 56 per cent of seats. In Nepal a positive discrimination policy has been adopted to increase representation of women and other disadvantaged groups in the civil service and the political, economic and social spheres.

35. The availability of timely and reliable data is a precondition for policy planning and monitoring. It is also crucial for ensuring accountability by development partners and stakeholders. Although there has been some progress made, especially for statistics related to Millennium Development Goal indicators, for 9 of the 30 goals and targets of the Brussels Programme, no data are available for more than 25 per cent of countries, especially in the Pacific islands. Thus, the challenge of building effective in-country capacity to produce better policy-relevant data remains huge.

36. While there has been some progress with regard to democratization during the last decade in many least developed countries, unconstitutional changes in Government in those countries have started to increase recently, with three countries in West Africa and two other least developed countries experiencing coups d'état from 2008 to early 2010. All recent coups d'état in Africa have been condemned by the African Union and participation by their leaders in African Union activities has been suspended until the effective restoration of constitutional order. The African Union also stresses the importance of democratic norms in this context.

37. While there has been some progress with regard to good governance in many least developed countries, the capacity of Governments to develop and implement home-grown development strategies needs to be further improved. **In this context more voice and participation of least developed countries in international decision-making as well as improved coherence of donor policies is crucial to avoid a deterioration of external conditions, which might counteract efforts towards sustainable and inclusive development made by the least developed countries themselves.**

Commitment 3
Building human and institutional capacities

38. Human capacities are an important precondition for sustainable development and are at the centre of the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, the Brussels Programme also has a number of goals and targets focusing on education, health and other social services.

39. Most least developed countries are making rapid progress towards achieving universal primary enrolment. The number of countries with enrolment ratios below 65 per cent fell from 16 in 2000 to 4 in 2008. However, there are some indications

[4] The 14 countries are Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda and Zambia.

that the rate of progress is slowing. In addition, in many least developed countries a large percentage of children do not acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills, even when they complete a full cycle of primary education.

40. Inequalities with respect to wealth, gender, ethnicity, language and location are now considered one of the major barriers to universal primary education and require a change in attitude. For example, pastoralists in African countries rarely have a chance to attend school on a regular basis. The effects of extreme poverty, which often result in child labour, also prevent access to education unless the education system takes the special needs of these groups into account.

41. Many least developed countries have removed school fees, but there is also a need to reduce indirect costs and to increase spending on schools and teachers to accommodate larger numbers of students without jeopardizing quality. Bangladesh and Cambodia have made progress by providing stipend programmes for marginalized groups. Zambia's success in increasing primary school net enrolment to 97 per cent in 2008 from 69 per cent in 2000 has been attributed to free basic education, re-entry policies, community school education, adult literacy and the school feeding programme.

42. Almost all least developed countries for which data exist have increased adult literacy over the past decade, reaching an average rate of 58 per cent, and have reduced related gender imbalances. To accelerate progress, Burkina Faso has scaled up the budget for literacy from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of the education budget. This is a positive step in a country where 50 per cent of the youth from 17 to 22 years of age have completed only two years of schooling.

43. The majority of least developed countries have made substantial progress in reducing infant and child mortality rates. Infant mortality was reduced by 27 per cent from 1990 to 2008, to an average of 82 per 1,000 infants. By current estimates, 12 countries have achieved, or are on track to achieve, the goal of fewer than 35 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Child mortality was reduced by 28 per cent from 1990 to 2008, to an average of 129 per 1,000 children. However, this is still almost double the rate for all developing countries. Child mortality rates over 100 were observed in most African least developed countries and Afghanistan, while progress with regard to child mortality has been accelerated since 2005 in several African countries owing to the improvement in nutrition.

44. Progress with respect to maternal health has been mixed. Fifteen least developed countries (including all five Pacific least developed countries) have 60 per cent or more of births attended by skilled personnel, but only two have already reached the target of 85 per cent. Changes have been small and in some countries skilled birth attendance even declined, resulting in a very low average of 38 per cent. By contrast, in 19 countries 85 per cent or more pregnant women receive antenatal care, with an average of 64 per cent. Likewise, most least developed countries show at least moderate increases in contraceptive use.

45. While limited data have made it difficult to measure trends, there are some indications that as many as 21 least developed countries are making some progress towards reducing maternal mortality, while 24 appear to be making little or no progress and some even experienced a negative trend in the period from 1990 to 2005, making it one of the Millennium Development Goals for which progress has been slowest. Most of the stagnation occurs in the countries which already

experience the highest rates of maternal mortality, predominantly located in Africa, but also including Afghanistan. In addition to further improvements in health-care provision, major improvements in nutrition, sanitation and empowerment of women will be needed to make significant progress towards the target, especially in rural areas.

46. Declines or stable trends in HIV prevalence are now estimated in 25 of 35 least developed countries for which trend data are available. However, there are pronounced intra- and interregional differences. In Asia the epidemic has largely been confined to below 1 per cent prevalence. The highest rates are still found in the countries of southern and eastern Africa, with prevalence rates over 10 per cent in four of them.

47. Changes in behaviour, such as increased use of condoms in almost all least developed countries for which data exists as well as considerable investments in prevention, treatment and research, appear to have ensured sustained long-term reduction in HIV mortality and infection, and must be continued to further reduce new cases in higher-prevalence countries and prevent the spread of infection in countries with low rates. Women's networks are increasingly participating in HIV/AIDS policy formulation and have increased access to related resources and services in Cambodia, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

48. High prevalence of malaria (100 or more cases per 1,000 population) is found in 30 least developed countries, mainly in the Pacific and in Africa.[5] Prevention programmes for malaria in Africa are making significant progress and ...ng treatment is improving. All least developed countries with a high burden of tuberculosis — except Afghanistan — also have a high burden of malaria, entailing additional challenges. Tuberculosis prevalence and death rates have declined substantially in some countries, but the number of countries with high prevalence remains high at 24 in 2008, while the number with high death rates declined sharply from 24 to 10.

49. In almost all least developed countries more than 60 per cent of the urban population has access to improved drinking water, whereas such access is enjoyed by the rural population in only half of them. By contrast, access to improved sanitation is low in both urban and rural areas. However, progress in access to sanitation is faster in rural areas. Water pollution is a growing concern in countries such as Bangladesh, where up to 70 million people are exposed to water that contains more than the threshold value of 10 micrograms of arsenic per litre established by the World Health Organization.

50. Access to water and sanitation is determined not only by the allocation of resources but also by growing demand owing to demographic factors and increased use by the private sector. Regulations to govern water use and protect the resource need to balance interests of household consumption, agriculture, fishery and industrial use, including the production of hydropower. Stakeholder participation, decentralization and partnerships can help to improve integrated water management.

51. Most of the Millennium Development Goals show a marked difference between urban and rural areas. For some indicators, such as the proportion of

[5] Malaria estimates for 2006 have been substantially revised on the basis of extensive data compilation and analysis, new data and consultations with countries.

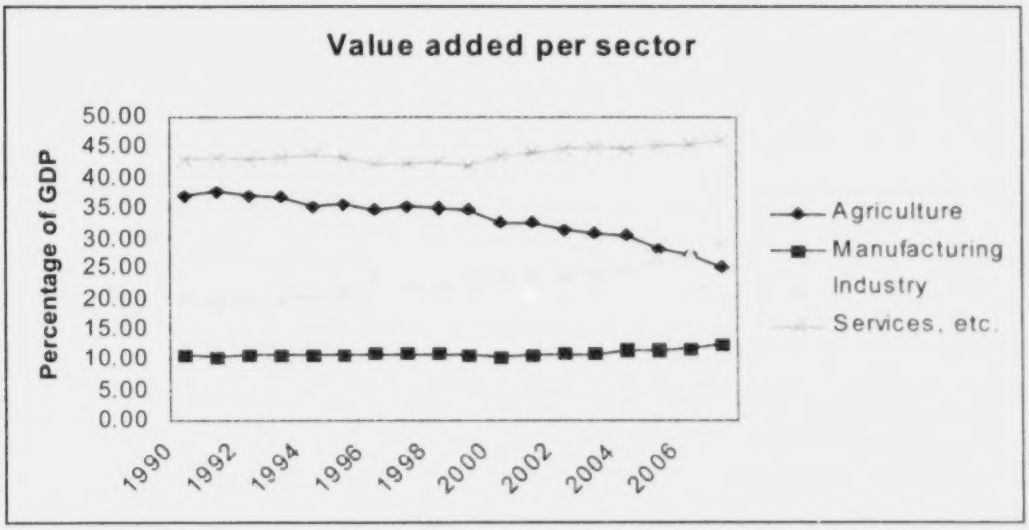
underweight children, this disparity has even increased. This development is linked to a rapidly growing population in urban centres, owing in part to an accelerated rate of rural-urban migration, which is more advanced in Asian least developed countries but is growing rapidly in Africa as well. The least developed countries will therefore need to take measures to prevent an increasing number of urban slum-dwellers and to avoid the deterioration of urban as well as rural service delivery.

52. The strong links between the different social sectors need to be taken into account for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. For example, one third of all children in developing countries have experienced severe malnutrition before they enter primary school, with irreparable damage to their cognitive development. In many least developed countries in both Asia and Africa early childhood care and education programmes are not widespread, limiting the outcomes of schooling. Likewise, improved access to water and sanitation contributes significantly to better health outcomes as well as education, especially for girls.

53. **It is clear that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved globally without accelerated progress in the least developed countries. Thus, the Governments of the least developed countries and the international community need to step up efforts to increase resources and improve their allocation as well as the efficiency of targeted programmes.**

Commitment 4
Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries

54. One of the most striking features of the least developed countries is the lack of productive capacity and structural transformation needed to accelerate development, which was a central goal of the Brussels Programme. Changes in the sectoral composition of GDP have been much slower in the least developed countries than in other developing countries. In particular, the share of manufacturing, which has been the driving force of economic development in many middle-income countries, has increased only slowly. Only seven least developed countries had a share of manufacturing in GDP of more than 15 per cent, four of which are in Asia. Moreover, the declining share of agriculture is driven by the Asian countries and some African oil exporters, whereas in many other African least developed countries the share of agriculture in GDP has actually increased over the last decade.



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators online, 2009 (accessed on 26 March 2010).

55. Agricultural productivity in most least developed countries is very low owing to underinvestment, abolishment of support systems, including input subsidies and extension services, and limited availability of credit, which resulted in declining land fertility and crop quality. Even during the price hikes in 2007 and 2008, most farmers were not able to benefit and investment was not significantly increased.

56. In addition, agricultural policies have failed to adequately address the predominant role of women in the sector, who are at the forefront of food production, processing and distribution in least developed countries and represent most of the agricultural workforce, and of the rural population. Rural women, in particular, continue to face daunting discrimination with regard to access to and control over such productive assets as capital, land, labour-saving technology, equipment and extension services.

57. **As agriculture still plays a crucial role in almost all least developed countries, a broad consensus has emerged in the last few years that it needs to receive higher priority, reflected in higher shares of public investment and aid to the sector and the implementation of institutional reforms, including land rights. Access to inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer, needs to be increased. Additional measures include new investment in enhancing capacities of small farmers, more efficient water management technologies, restoration of soil nutrients, more stress-resistant agricultural varieties and market opportunities for small farmers. The $20 billion over three years pledged for food security by the Group of 8 and the Group of 20 in 2009 should be provided urgently, with a significant share allocated for least developed countries to initiate the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action, adopted by the High-level Task Force on Food Security.**

58. The least developed countries on average have increased manufacturing output, albeit from very low levels and concentrated towards Asian countries. In

sectoral terms, the best performance has been in apparel, textiles, leather and tobacco products. These are mainly light manufacturing, low technology products, which account for more than 90 per cent of all manufactured exports from the least developed countries. Technology acquisition to meet quality standards is a prerequisite for agroprocessing.

59. The services sector has grown in importance in several least developed countries. For example, in Bhutan exports of hydropower to India now account for 30 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings. A number of least developed countries are specializing in tourism and some in transport-related services. However, the effects of these specializations on the population vary substantially, with little effect from hydropower exports and mixed effect from tourism. The United Republic of Tanzania is an example where the hospitality industry has developed close linkages with local suppliers, creating a multiplier effect.

60. **As diversification into higher value-added products with growing demand has been very limited in most least developed countries, a renewed focus is needed on more active State policies to promote structural transformation and the development of productive capacities. These policies need to be tailored to specific sectors with competitiveness potential in each country.**

61. In an increasingly knowledge-based global economy, skills development, especially related to technology, is becoming a crucial strategy to tackle youth unemployment. However, vocational training in many least developed countries largely focuses on the formal sector, whereas the informal sector provides most opportunities, especially for youth. In addition, the quality of the training is weak, as there is not enough focus on practical experience and such complementary skills as basic accounting.

62. Another prerequisite for growth and structural transformation is investment. Despite the fact that 17 least developed countries reached the target of 25 per cent of GDP as gross fixed capital formation, the average investment ratio increased only slowly from 18.7 per cent in 2000 to 21.3 per cent in 2008, as compared to 29.3 per cent for all developing countries. This confirms the importance of addressing the weakness of domestic financial institutions and revising monetary policy to support investment-focused fiscal policy.

63. Total net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to least developed countries increased from $4.1 billion in 2000 to $33.1 billion in 2008. Net FDI as a percentage of GDP into least developed countries increased substantially from 2.2 per cent in 2000 to 6.5 per cent in 2008. FDI exceeded 5 per cent of GDP in 20 countries. Thus, FDI remains highly concentrated in countries with potential for resource extraction, with only 12 oil- and mineral-exporting least developed countries accounting for about 76 per cent of total inward flows to least developed countries. These countries were the first to be affected by the financial crises through large drops in commodity prices in the second half of 2008. Only a few countries have managed to attract FDI in manufacturing.

64. One area where investment is needed most is infrastructure, in order to reduce production costs, enable diversification into higher value-added products and strengthen supply-side capacities. This applies especially to energy and transport infrastructure. In those least developed countries where GDP growth was high, demand for electricity has been increasing by more than 10 per cent annually over

the past decade. This has increased the strain on the provision of electricity and caused increasing shortages, power outages and rationing, exacerbated by drought in countries with high reliance on hydropower.

65. With regard to transport infrastructure, the total road network expanded in 13 least developed countries but declined in 5. For railways and air transport, data availability is even more sketchy and no positive trend can be observed. **Thus, Governments and donors need to pay more attention to maintaining and expanding transport networks, including the connection of missing links and favouring multimodal transport infrastructure approaches, which are crucial for interregional and international trade expansion.**

66. While indicators related to more traditional means of communication, such as postal services and fixed-line subscribers, are stagnating or only progressing slowly, there has been rapid progress in access to mobile phones and the Internet. The percentage of mobile telephone subscribers continues to increase in most least developed countries, from an average of 2.8 mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants in 2004 to 20.9 subscribers per 100 inhabitants in 2008, and has not been affected by the economic crisis. The number of Internet users has increased more slowly, from 0.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2004 to 2.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2008, but has reached 4.1 per 100 inhabitants in the Pacific. The interest of foreign investors in the market for mobile phones in the least developed countries also continues. For example, Bharti Airtel, an Indian operator, is bidding for Zain's Africa operations (including nine least developed countries), bringing its experience in serving low-income customers. The mobile money services provided by Zain will provide Bharti with experience it might transfer to India.

67. **To achieve the necessary scaling up of infrastructure provision, all stakeholders in the least developed countries and development partners need to work together, including sharing of best practices in public-private partnerships for infrastructure development. In addition, a regional approach to the provision of infrastructure would help to overcome bottlenecks and increase efficiency.**

68. **To improve productive capacity, most least developed countries would need to adopt sector-specific development policies focusing on agriculture, services and industrial transformation. Such policies need to be supported by macroeconomic policies, financial sector development, including microcredit, and a business environment that focus on employment creation and entrepreneurship. The financial and economic crisis reaffirmed the vital role Governments need to play in cushioning against external shocks and increasing resilience through restructuring the economy.**

69. **Global support for private FDI is also needed, especially in infrastructure development and other priority areas, including bridging the digital divide. The global support can take various forms, including export credits, co-financing, venture capital and other lending instruments, risk guarantees, leveraging aid resources, business development services and funding for feasibility studies. Furthermore, bilateral and multilateral partners should support least developed countries in attracting FDI by providing insurance to offset their high perceived political risk. FDI incentives by home countries to match measures taken by least developed countries for attracting inflows and targeting them to priority sectors should be encouraged.**

Commitment 5
Enhancing the role of trade in development

70. Given the small nature of domestic markets and the limited scope for intraregional trade, international trade plays an important role for development in the least developed countries. Increasing their openness to international trade and investment has been a dominant feature of economic reforms undertaken over the last two decades. The value of merchandise exports, in nominal terms, rose from $83.3 billion in 2005 to $172 billion in 2008. Similarly, imports grew remarkably from $88 billion to $153 billion over the same period. Thus, the trade balance improved from a negative $4.5 billion in 2005 to a positive balance of $19 billion in 2008.

71. However, this improved trade performance only occurred in a few least developed countries and was largely driven by the surge in commodity prices, with oil and mineral prices rising significantly. The collapse in commodity prices from mid-2008 to mid-2009 is estimated to have cut the volume of world trade by 12 per cent in 2009, with a somewhat smaller decline in the least developed countries. While the share of least developed countries in global merchandise trade increased from 0.62 per cent in 2002 to 1.08 per cent in 2008, the share of the non-oil exporting countries only increased from 0.37 per cent to 0.4 per cent during the same period. Moreover, the share of least developed countries in trade in services remained largely static, hovering around 0.04 per cent over the period from 2002 to 2007.

72. Thus, the limited export performance of the least developed countries is related to their high concentration, with the top three export products accounting for an average 70 per cent of merchandise exports. Some have managed to achieve diversification into manufacturing (especially in Asia) and horticultural products, including fresh flowers, plants, fruits and vegetables as well as exports of fish and fishery products. The least developed countries have also begun to witness some diversification in their market base. By 2008, less than 50 per cent of least developed countries' exports were destined for the European Union and the United States of America, whereas the share of exports to other developing countries rose to around 50 per cent.

73. Least developed countries' exports benefit from a number of preferential trading schemes, such as the European Union's Everything But Arms initiative, which provides duty-free, quota-free market access to all products from all least developed countries. Since September 2009, the initiative has been fully implemented as imports of rice and sugar have been liberalized. Switzerland has also been providing duty-free, quota-free market access to all products from the least developed countries since September 2009.

74. Other initiatives include the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act for most African countries and the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which covers Haiti. Other developed countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Norway also accord preferential treatment for products originating in the least developed countries. Most of these countries, with the exception of one, meet the duty-free, quota-free market access threshold of 97 per cent of products originating in least developed countries.

75. African and island least developed countries enjoy better market access conditions, with nearly all their exports to developed countries entering duty-free, compared to Asian least developed countries, with only two thirds of their exports enjoying duty-free treatment. This is due to the high levels of tariffs on clothing and textiles applied in the United States market. **Further efforts by developed countries are required to achieve the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries' exports.**

76. A number of developing countries, such as China and India, have also been providing preferential treatment to least developed countries' products. Brazil announced during the Seventh World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, in December 2009, that it would provide duty-free, quota-free market access to least developed countries' products, initially covering 80 per cent of tariff lines by mid-2010, with the intention to expand it to 100 per cent. Turkey provides duty-free, quota-free access for most least developed countries' products in line with the Everything But Arms initiative, as it is in a customs union with the European Union.

77. Despite benefiting from preferential trading arrangements, the least developed countries have not been able to fully utilize these benefits. This is mainly due to stringent rules of origin applied by developed countries together with least developed countries' weak supply capacity. The World Trade Organization Hong Kong Ministerial Conference called upon developed countries to ensure that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are simple and transparent, and contribute to facilitating market access. The Canadian preference scheme for least developed countries is regarded as a model, as its rules of origin mainly provide for one simple method to determine origin, except for textiles and clothing. Least developed countries' exports are granted duty-free, quota-free access if at least 40 per cent of the ex-factory price of the goods shipped to Canada originate in one or more least developed countries or Canada. The European Union is currently reforming its rules of origin.

78. Efforts are also being made to strengthen least developed countries' supply capacity through the Aid for Trade initiative. Two global reviews of the initiative were organized in 2007 and 2009, which raised awareness about the barriers against least developed countries' beneficial integration into the world economy and the support they need to overcome their supply-side constraints. Aid for Trade flows to least developed countries grew from $3.9 billion in 2000 to $10.5 billion in 2008, amounting to around a quarter of total Aid for Trade commitments.[6] This plays an important role in complementing trade-related and other capacity-building programmes, including the Enhanced Integrated Framework. At present, 47 least developed countries are at different stages of their Framework process. Thirty-five have completed their Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies.

79. **A timely and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha Round would be an important step to improve trade-related support for the least developed countries. At the Seventh Ministerial Conference, World Trade Organization members underlined that development should remain central to the Round and that least developed country-specific issues needed particular attention. They also reaffirmed the need to conclude the Doha Round in 2010. In particular, the full implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access by developed**

[6] In 2006 constant prices and exchange rates.

countries and developing countries in a position to do so, as agreed in the Hong Kong World Trade Organization Ministerial Declaration, is critical to integrating beneficially into the global trading system. More transparent and simplified rules of origin, allowing for regional and South-South cumulation of origin, could improve the use and value of preferences, as would more comprehensive product coverage. Least developed countries should be granted greater preferential treatment than other countries to enable them to offset some of their disadvantages.

80. **Developed countries also need to honour the 2005 pledge to eliminate, by 2013, all export subsidies, including on agriculture, which remain a major distortion affecting trade and farm production in developing countries. Even though overall agricultural support in relation to GDP of developed countries declined further, it remained high in absolute terms and in relation to aid.**

Commitment 6
Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

81. The least developed countries emit far fewer greenhouse gases per capita than others and therefore contribute the least to climate change, while they are more vulnerable to its effects, such as a rise in sea level in some areas and drought in others. This vulnerability will be increased because agriculture, the sector most affected by climate change, accounts for such a large proportion of their economies, especially in terms of employment. In addition, the least developed countries have the least capacity to adapt to climate change.

82. Already over a billion hectares of drylands in African least developed countries are affected by desertification, with estimated losses of around $9 billion per year as a result. Desertification has also played a role in sparking off several of the current armed conflicts in progress, in particular in Africa, as it has contributed to political instability and social breakdown. Climate change is further aggravating the situation, as the least developed countries have limited capacity to manage its desertification consequences. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is supporting most least developed countries in the process of mainstreaming their national action programmes to combat desertification and drought. These are the policy frameworks at the national level to stop, reverse and reduce the impacts caused by land degradation.

83. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, the parties agreed that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by enabling and supporting the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries, especially in least developed and other vulnerable countries. Furthermore, they agreed that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.

84. As of April 2010, 41 industrialized countries have formally communicated their economy-wide targets for the reduction of emissions, as agreed at the Conference in Copenhagen. In addition, 35 developing countries, including 11 least

developed countries, have announced nationally appropriate mitigation actions they are planning to take, including the reduction in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, provided they receive the appropriate support in terms of finance and technology. In this context, Sierra Leone is stepping up its efforts to enhance the sustainable management and protection of forest reserves and catchment areas, expand clean energy utilization and improve waste management.

85. Developed countries committed to a goal of mobilizing jointly $10 billion a year until 2012 and $100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. This funding will come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance. Regarding new multilateral funding for adaptation, the parties agreed that it will be delivered through effective and efficient fund arrangements, with a governance structure providing for equal representation of developed and developing countries. **They also agreed that a significant portion of such funding should flow through the Copenhagen green climate fund. It needs to be ensured that the least developed countries have a strong voice in the allocation of these resources and receive a share reflecting their high vulnerability. Furthermore, these funds need to be additional to other development aid commitments. The Secretary-General has established an Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ethiopia, that will submit modalities for creation of the Fund.**

86. **The very fact that the challenges of poverty, food, energy, global recession and climate change are all interrelated has presented the global community with a unique opportunity to tackle them together. A "green new deal for least developed countries" requires that large public investment in renewable energy be made urgently in order to achieve economies of scale. In addition, policies, skills and incentives need to be developed to encourage private investment in environmentally friendly and climate-friendly businesses, such as energy efficiency, sustainable transportation and greening of commodity supply chains. Apart from benefiting the poor, such investment would also provide the basis for sustainable development, stimulate complementary investment in infrastructure and agriculture, and help raise agricultural productivity, thus enhancing food security and creating decent jobs for the rural poor.**

Haiti: Build Back Better

87. The earthquake which hit Haiti in January 2010 not only left at least 200,000 people dead, 300,000 injured and around 2 million displaced, causing tremendous human suffering, but also devastated the economy, with the physical infrastructure largely damaged. It is estimated that the earthquake could have caused a loss equivalent to more than 50 per cent of Haiti's GDP. The earthquake came after a year of heavy destruction by four hurricanes, with damage equivalent to about 15 per cent of GDP. The functioning of public institutions, which was weak before the disaster, has been affected by the destruction of public registries and infrastructure.

88. Donors reacted quickly with relief operations and funding, and several agencies waived debt payments within days. The Government of Haiti also received $7.75 million from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, which is

about 20 times the annual premium. Although the amount is relatively small, it can be used according to Government priorities. The Facility provides Governments with immediate liquidity after being hit by a natural disaster. The pooling of risks among members lowers the cost of coverage by around 40 per cent. This provides a best practice example for insurance schemes in other regions.

89. The International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti pledged more than $9 billion for short- and long-term recovery. **It is crucial that the international community honour this commitment and that it be delivered in a manner that strengthens the authority of the State, build the capacity of local and national institutions, use Haitian firms and workers whenever possible and increase resilience to future shocks.**

Commitment 7
Mobilizing financial resources

90. Since the adoption of the Brussels Programme, the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources for their development so as to ensure the sustainability of funding for national development priorities. However, their domestic savings stagnated around 13 per cent of GDP. Only the oil-producing countries experienced significant growth in domestic savings. By contrast, some post-conflict countries experienced negative savings rates. Thus, most least developed countries still face a huge financing gap, which is likely to have increased in 2009 on account of the current global financial and economic crisis.

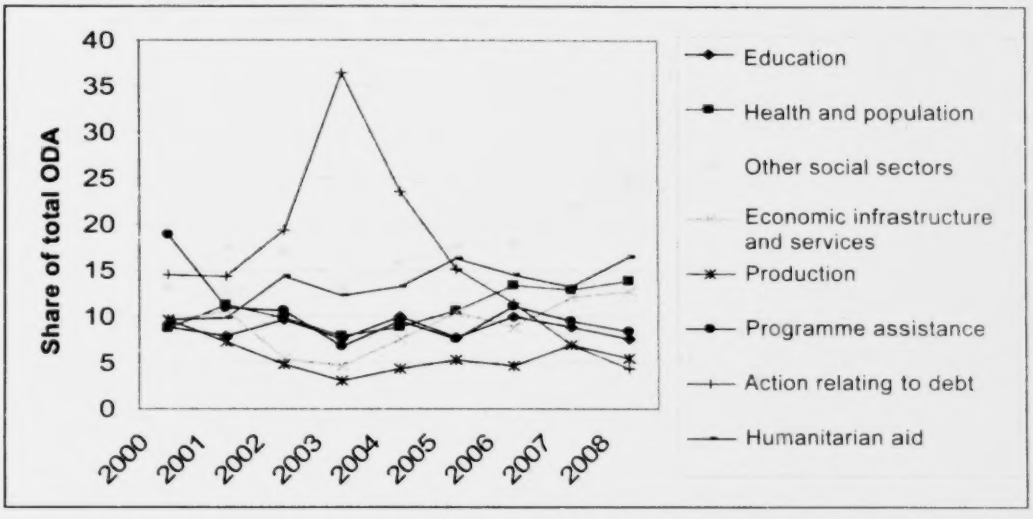
91. The least developed countries continued to rely on external financial resources, especially official development assistance (ODA) for their development. Net ODA flows to the least developed countries, excluding debt forgiveness and technical assistance, in terms of volume, increased from $31.9 billion in 2007 to $37.0 billion in 2008. Aid distribution to the least developed countries was uneven and some countries even experienced a decline in ODA in 2008. Total ODA as a percentage of gross national income (0.09 per cent), as measured by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee, is considerably below the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent. The number of donor countries providing 0.15 per cent or more of their gross national income in ODA to the least developed countries increased from seven in 2005 to eight in 2008. In 2009 total ODA from Development Assistance Committee donors increased slightly, despite the reduction in gross national income in most donor countries. However, some donors have reduced or postponed the pledges they made for 2010.

92. At the Group of 8 summit in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, developed countries committed to more than double ODA to Africa by 2010 relative to 2004, which would be an increase of $25 billion. Given that two thirds of the least developed countries are in Africa, delivering on this commitment would enhance their development prospects considerably. In 2009 net bilateral ODA to Africa in real terms only increased by 3 per cent over 2008 and it is likely that only about half of the promised increase will be delivered. **Developed countries should make efforts to increase aid to the least developed countries faster, to help them deal with the impact of the global financial and economic crisis.**

93. Another important issue related to ODA is the sectoral allocation which has increasingly been directed towards social sectors, in part because of the focus on the Millennium Development Goals. However, in the last few years there has been a trend towards increasing aid to infrastructure and productive sectors.

Development Assistance Committee donors' bilateral ODA to the least developed countries by sector

(Millions of United States dollars)



Source: OECD/Development Assistance Committee, online databank, assessed on 30 March 2010.

94. To address large shocks, such as the global financial crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has established a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility for low-income countries, which has three new lending windows. Although there is a considerable difference between the least developed countries and low-income countries, many least developed countries are likely to face less conditionality and more flexibility in accessing financing through IMF. The new windows became effective in January 2010 and will provide support for medium-term balance-of-payments needs and for short-term financing and adjustment needs caused by domestic or external shocks, providing some insurance.

95. Remittances from migrants abroad have also become an important source of development finance for the least developed countries, financing consumption, including for health and education, and to a lesser extent small- and medium-scale enterprises. Remittance flows to the least developed countries increased from $6.1 billion in 2000 to $17.5 billion in 2007 and further to $23 billion in 2008. They are estimated to have increased further in 2009, against the global trend.

96. Delivery of relief through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative resulted in the cumulative totals by the World Bank and IMF increasing only from $36.7 billion up to February 2009, to $38.8 billion by February 2010. The trend was similar among multilateral contributors under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, with the cumulative total increasing only from $15.4 billion in 2009 to $16.0 billion in 2010. The number of

pre-completion point countries fell to eight in early 2009, mainly comprising countries experiencing significant social and political strife. The number of post-completion point countries reached 19 in 2010, up from 13 in 2006.

97. Debt service dropped significantly among the least developed countries from 2000 to 2008, with only 2 of 25 countries with data available devoting more than 20 per cent of export earnings and income from abroad in 2008, compared to 15 countries in 2000. The debt service percentage decreased from 2000 to 2008 in 17 countries and increased in 7 countries.

98. The importance of South-South cooperation in terms of resource flows, including aid, remittances and FDI, continues to grow. China is an important donor and, at the same time, investor in several least developed countries, including Cambodia and the Sudan. India is focusing its aid to least developed countries on technical cooperation and capacity-building ranging from information technology to vocational training. Turkey is becoming an important donor for some least developed countries and has increased its total ODA in 2009.

99. **Donors should increase aid to least developed countries in line with international commitments to enable them to cope with the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. Better targeting of aid is required to support development of productive capacities, infrastructure, agriculture, the social sector as well as employment creation. Innovative sources of finance also need to be further explored.**

100. **To enhance the developmental impact of aid, efforts are required in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, including ownership, alignment, harmonization, mutual accountability and managing for results. These principles were reaffirmed in the Accra Agenda for Action, adopted at the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008. This has been stressed in both the Asia-Pacific and Africa outcome documents of the regional reviews.**

101. **Furthermore, there is continued need for lasting and comprehensive debt relief for the least developed countries. Strengthened efforts are needed to ensure that recent gains under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative are not eroded. In addition, the international community must make efforts to address the debt problem of post-conflict countries, most of which are least developed countries, through fast-tracking their movement from pre-completion points to completion points.**

III. Responses of the least developed countries to the financial crises

102. Overall, the least developed countries have mastered the effects of the financial and economic crisis better than expected, owing in part to their limited integration in global financial markets and to improved macroeconomic policies and the use of some stimulus programmes. However, despite the average positive growth rates in 2009, many least developed countries are still facing declines in household incomes, rising unemployment and the effects of declining Government revenues on social services. In the absence of social safety nets and very limited fiscal space to promote job creation and protect social spending, there is a high probability that the

crisis will hamper development prospects in the medium to long term and further jeopardize the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

103. The growth experience during the crisis within the group of least developed countries is very diverse. Oil- and mineral-exporting countries registered the sharpest decline in GDP growth, starting from mid-2008, driven not only by declining prices but also by lower production. By contrast, countries specialized in agricultural exports faced a much smaller decline in GDP. The picture for exporters of labour-intensive manufactures is mixed. For example, exports of clothing from Bangladesh were not much affected until mid-2009, as consumers in industrial countries shifted to cheaper products and producers were able to cut prices. However, towards the end of 2009, demand in major markets declined and competition from other low-cost garment producers increased, leading to a decline in textile exports and the closure of several factories.

104. As the financial and economic crisis came immediately after the food and energy crisis in 2007 and 2008, coping mechanisms of the poor had already been exhausted. These include reduced investment in education and selling of productive assets, and thus are likely to limit opportunities for development in the long run. Despite the decline from their peaks in 2008, food prices remained above their pre-crisis levels and in many domestic markets came down very slowly. In the last quarter of 2009 the cost of the food basket was still higher compared to long-term averages in a majority of countries. It is estimated that as a result of the economic crisis, the number of food insecure individuals has increased by about 9 per cent globally and this rate is most likely even higher in least developed countries.

105. Job losses owing to the crisis have been significant in several least developed countries. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at least 400,000 jobs in the mining industry had been lost by the first half of 2009 and in many countries manufacturing factories closed down completely, continuing the trend of deindustrialization, especially in such labour-intensive sectors as textiles, construction and tourism. Women have been disproportionally affected by job losses in export processing zones and in the tourism sector.

106. By contrast, agricultural employment tends to increase during crises, as job losses in cities and the subsequent return of unemployed individuals to rural areas provide a sort of informal safety net. However, this effect might further lower agricultural productivity, as during a crisis access to other agricultural inputs is unlikely to increase. There is evidence for this effect from Cambodia, where garment workers returned to the rural area after losing jobs in the city.

107. In many least developed countries the crisis triggered a stark increase in vulnerable employment and households that are poor despite having members who are working. Women and youth were most likely more affected by the increase in vulnerable employment, which is estimated to have risen to almost four fifths of the employed population. The decline in jobs and increase in vulnerable employment in turn is contributing to the dramatic increase in poverty.

108. In addition, already high constraints have increased for least developed countries in accessing international private capital markets. This is expected to continue in the medium-term owing to a general increase in risk aversion, the need of banks in high-income countries to rebuild their capital as well as higher capital costs. Thus, the least developed countries will need greater support from official

sources of international finance to sustain priority spending. While remittances declined on average as a result of job losses of migrants, in countries like Bangladesh and Ethiopia remittances actually increased in late 2008 and 2009. However, this was driven in part by the fact that return migrants transferred their savings to their hor countries.

109. Countries with large current account deficits and low levels of foreign reserves were particularly affected by the financial crisis, as these deficits are paid for with inflows of capital, remittances, foreign aid and borrowing, which all dried up during the crisis. Greater regional cooperation could facilitate risk sharing by pooling reserves and thus strengthen South-South financial flows.

110. Policy options for most least developed countries to weather the effects of the financial crisis were limited. As inflationary pressures receded in most countries, many central banks eased monetary conditions, making monetary policies countercyclical. However, given the weak capital markets and financial intermediation in most of them, monetary policy only had a small effect towards economic recovery.

111. Reduced Government revenue combined with sustained or increased public spending and against a backdrop of falling external assistance in some countries increased budget deficits in most least developed countries. However, some fragile States in particular had subscribed for a cash budget and thus had very little flexibility to react.

112. Despite severe limitations, a number of least developed countries managed to put together fiscal stimulus packages through increased spending, for example, for infrastructure. Other least developed countries increased spending on agriculture, mainly for fertilizer and seeds, for example, in Burundi and Mali. Mali also removed import taxes on essential foodstuffs and temporarily reduced taxes on petroleum products.

113. The Central Bank of Bangladesh has taken measures to reduce interest rates and bank charges. The Government has also taken some fiscal measures, such as reduction in duties and taxes on exportables, tax relief for small- and medium-scale enterprises, VAT relief for some production items and tax holidays for agroprocessing industries. It announced a second fiscal stimulus package to support export-oriented industries in early 2010, after a decline of merchandise exports in the period from July to October 2009 compared to the previous year.

114. The Central Bank of the United Republic of Tanzania provided financial support to commercial banks facing balance-sheet problems in order to increase liquidity. The Tanzanian Government also sought to compensate crop buyers for losses incurred owing to the fall in demand and prices of commodities in the world market during the 2008/09 season. The package also included provision of working capital to investors at discounted rates.

115. Limited fiscal space has impeded the ability of least developed countries to increase social protection, but a significant number managed to increase it somewhat. Scaling up of school feeding and maternal and child feeding programmes has been a common response, in particular in countries that lack other direct transfer mechanisms. Many countries have expanded public works programmes, featuring either food or cash for work, or have initiated targeted cash transfer programmes,

sometimes in combination with youth employment programmes.[7] A number of countries lacking large targeted programmes have sought to protect vulnerable groups by reducing import tariffs, VAT and other taxes on food grains, for example, Afghanistan, Burundi, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

116. The cuts in national budgets that have occurred despite the efforts to safeguard priority spending are affecting spending for social services. In African least developed countries a 10 per cent reduction in spending per primary school pupil is estimated for 2009 and 2010. A case in point is Zambia, where the crisis has resulted in a reduction in the number of students, with long-term effects on skills availability. However, other Millennium Development Goals have not been much affected by the crisis. For example, there is no evidence for an increase in underweight prevalence among children in least developed countries after the crisis.

117. The global recovery, which started in Asia, has led to a rebound in trade and industrial production. The resulting increase in the demand for primary commodities and world commodity prices will support the recovery of GDP growth in the least developed countries. However, many of them are expected to experience much slower economic performance in the coming years as compared to the pre-crisis decade, because investment has dropped significantly. This slowed growth may aggravate the already deteriorating fiscal balances and the rising public debt. However, some countries, such as Tuvalu, are developing debt risk management and mitigation policies to ensure all future borrowing is subject to a detailed process involving financial analysis, broad consultation and approval by Parliament.

118. **In light of the devastating effects of the financial crisis, the global financial architecture needs to be overhauled. The failings of the financial sector require improved regulatory oversight and higher buffer capital requirements. There is also a need to make financial markets less volatile and more predictable and to take the particular vulnerabilities of the least developed countries into account. At the same time, these initiatives will need to be properly designed to ensure that they also help to boost both investment and private demand.**

119. The significant setback of the financial and economic crisis for reaching the goals of the Brussels Programme, including the Millennium Development Goals, calls for effective strategies to build the resilience of the least developed countries to various types of shocks. Such strategies need to focus on capacity-building so as to increase the ability to deal with crises and on diversification so as to reduce vulnerability to price and demand shocks. Thus, support from the international community needs to be increased and made more flexible in order to allow for timely and adequate responses, including countercyclical measures. To prevent the long-term reduction of growth that may result from the crises, a global stimulus package for the least developed countries is still very urgently needed.

[7] Countries stepping up social protection include Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

120. One indicator for the limited success of the Brussels Programme is the low number of graduating countries. Only one least developed country (Cape Verde) has graduated from the group since 2001. Two more countries are scheduled to graduate before the Fourth Conference in 2011. The United Nations system and other international development partners actively support graduating countries in aiming to secure a "smooth transition" from least developed country to post-least developed country status. For instance, the European Union decided in 2008 that every graduating country would continue to enjoy duty-free, quota-free access to its market for a period of at least three years from the date of graduation. Maldives, which is expected to exit the least developed country category in January 2011, will benefit from this smooth transition-related policy and is negotiating similar concessions with other partners. However, the Africa Outcome Document highlights that countries nearing the graduation threshold are concerned about the post-graduation uncertainty and abrupt disruption of international support measures, including ODA, market access, special and differential treatment, and trade-related capacity-building. **It argues that enhanced measures should be considered to ensure the effective and smooth transition of graduating countries so as to avoid the disruption of development efforts of graduating States.**

121. **Progress towards the goals of the Brussels Programme is now threatened by slow economic growth, diminished resources, fewer trade opportunities and possible reductions in aid flows from donor nations. At the same time, the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, with a potentially devastating impact on the least developed countries. In such a context, the commitments to building a global partnership for development embodied in the Brussels Programme need to be reaffirmed and strengthened.**

122. **As timely and reliable data are a precondition for both policy planning and monitoring of results, more attention of Governments and donors should focus on the development of sustainable statistical systems. As the Dakar declaration on the development of statistics of November 2009 reaffirmed, all countries must be encouraged and supported to define their own priorities, integrating user needs, and set out their own pathways for statistics, from collection to dissemination. Efforts to improve statistics should support, strengthen and sustain the institutions and agencies that make up national statistical systems.**

123. **Gender needs to be further mainstreamed in a future development partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners. Positive action to improve the numbers and influence of women in all political decision-making should be introduced, including by investing in women's leadership in local decision-making structures. Women's work burden must be reduced through investment in infrastructure, labour-saving technologies and gender-responsive economic stimulus packages. Investments for gender equality must be scaled up, including by institutionalizing "gender-responsive budgeting", as part of public financial management reforms as well as in ODA allocation to ensure that financial commitments advance gender equality.**

124. **Least developed countries need policy space in a broad range of areas, including fiscal, trade and macroeconomic policy, to be able to pursue their development goals. Because of externalities, missing institutions and other types of market failures, markets cannot be relied on to bring about structural change and kick-start the development of dynamic sectors. For example, the least developed countries need to be able to protect infant industries, use subsidies, especially in agriculture, either for agricultural inputs or guaranteed prices for farmers and subsidies for poor urban consumers, use countervailing duties for subsidized imports from other countries, give preferential treatment for sectors with a competitive potential and improve fiscal space to deal with external shocks. The growing heterogeneity among the least developed countries makes it evident that policies need to be tailored to country circumstances.**

125. **The Fourth Conference needs to focus on the specific vulnerabilities of least developed countries, many of which have been discussed in the present report. This includes the strengthening of a developmental State, with adequate capacities to design and implement a long-term development strategy as well as concrete measures to address country-specific vulnerabilities from the high concentration of production and exports, dependency on external resources, low human capital and high risks from external shocks, including from climate change.**

126. **Especially during the preparations for the Fourth Conference least developed countries' concerns need to be given greater attention in relevant international forums, in particular at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010.**

127. **Additional financial resources, among other things, are needed to ensure the full participation of the least developed countries' constituencies, including parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the preparatory process and the Conference itself.**

128. **The organizations of the United Nations system should provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself, especially through pre-Conference and parallel events on topics of high relevance for the least developed countries. There is also a need to intensify public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives in order to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance.**

Annex

Least developed countries: statistical data

About the data

1. In 2004 indicators were selected and agreed by the Economic and Social Council to track as closely as possible progress in achieving the objectives and targets of the Brussels Programme. They form the basis for the present tables, published annually since 2007. As requested by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Statistical Commission (see, for example, General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/291), the indicators on implementation of the Brussels Programme have been made fully consistent with the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

2. The tables have largely been compiled from official, published international sources by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The published sources are cited with each table. As national data sources have been improved, international estimates are less frequently used, except to adjust national data for comparability. Where sources have made retrospective adjustments to data, the newer data have been incorporated in the tables. Some data may therefore differ from those published in previous years in the report on implementation of the Programme of Action.

3. Large investments in data programmes by national and international statistical services are yielding rich new data stores in such important areas as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, infant and child mortality, education and literacy, international debt and merchandise trade. In addition, important new estimates on poverty and nutrition have become available from the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund in the past year and are included in the present tables.

4. Where shown, totals and means for the least developed countries and developing regions are weighted by absolute numbers of population or economic variable used in the denominator.

Explanatory notes

5. Years separated by a hyphen (such as 1995-2000) normally indicate data based on averages in the period shown, but in some cases indicate a change over the period. Years separated by a slash (such as 2000/07) indicate that data are shown for the latest year available in the period or, in the case of years before 2000, a midpoint where data are available within the period indicated.

6. Figures may not add to totals owing to rounding.

7. A dash indicates data are not available.

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Table 1

Economic growth, fixed capital formation, foreign direct investment and population

	Gross domestic product (GDP)												*Population*	
	Annual growth rate of GDP (constant United States dollars) (percentage)				*Per capita GDP (constant United States dollars)*		*Per capita GDP (current United States dollars)*		*Gross fixed capital formation as percentage of GDP, current prices*			*Foreign direct investment as percentage of GDP*			
Least developed countries	*1995-2000*	*2000-2008*	*2007*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2007*	*2008*	*2000*	*2007*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*(Thousands)* 2008	*Growth per year (percentage)* 2008
Africa															
Oil exporters															
Angola	6.1	10.4	20.3	14.8	818	1 736	1 712	1 942	12.1	13.3	12.1	9.6	44.4	18 021	2.7
Chad	2.7	14.8	0.2	0.3	259	400	660	765	15.2	15.9	15.1	8.3	10.0	10 914	2.7
Equatorial Guinea	33.9	27.3	23.2	15.2	1 651	6 605	16 666	27 130	61.9	31.1	22.4	9.5	7.2	659	2.6
Sudan	9.4	9.1	10.5	7.6	921	1 559	1 388	1 700	12.1	20.3	17.5	3.0	3.7	41 348	2.3
Subtotal (oil exporters)	**8.4**	**10.1**	**13.1**	**9.6**	**806**	**1 472**	**1 500**	**1 854**	**14.6**	**19.1**	**16.6**	**6.0**	**15.4**	**70 941**	**2.4**
Non-oil exporters															
Benin	4.8	4.1	4.6	5.0	431	462	657	767	18.0	19.9	20.3	2.5	1.8	8 662	3.2
Burkina Faso	6.5	6.3	3.6	4.5	444	527	459	522	19.2	20.9	21.1	0.9	1.7	15 234	3.5
Burundi	-1.2	2.1	3.6	4.5	150	152	119	138	7.5	11.6	13.1	1.7	0.0	8 074	3.0
Central African Republic	2.3	-1.0	3.7	2.2	451	410	404	464	11.1	8.7	10.1	0.1	6.0	4 339	1.9
Comoros	1.5	2.8	-1.0	1.0	505	490	720	802	10.1	10.4	13.5	—	—	661	2.3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-3.9	4.3	6.3	6.2	102	118	154	181	10.5	20.2	24.2	0.4	8.6	64 257	2.8
Djibouti	0.5	2.8	4.8	5.8	709	812	1 016	1 155	12.3	42.2	46.7	0.6	23.9	849	1.8
Eritrea	1.1	2.6	1.3	1.0	361	309	275	300	22.0	11.5	10.9	4.0	0.0	4 927	3.0
Ethiopia	4.6	6.4	11.1	11.3	228	347	244	319	20.3	24.8	21.2	1.7	0.4	80 713	2.6
Gambia	4.2	2.0	6.3	4.9	755	776	509	636	36.7	34.2	44.0	5.6	5.9	1 660	2.8
Guinea	4.5	2.9	1.8	4.0	501	534	420	505	18.9	11.4	14.2	0.3	27.2	9 833	2.3
Guinea-Bissau	-0.2	-0.4	3.7	3.1	203	179	232	257	15.1	15.0	15.6	0.3	3.7	1 575	2.2
Lesotho	4.7	2.8	5.1	3.5	448	556	823	788	40.4	24.4	28.5	4.0	12.3	2 049	0.9
Liberia	34.9	-4.6	9.5	7.1	215	160	180	219	7.3	20.0	18.8	3.9	17.3	3 793	4.6
Madagascar	3.8	2.3	6.3	5.0	239	251	399	488	16.2	27.4	34.0	2.1	15.8	19 111	2.7
Malawi	4.2	3.2	7.9	7.4	266	311	240	278	17.5	24.4	25.0	1.7	0.9	14 846	2.8
Mali	4.5	6.4	4.3	4.7	356	461	576	677	18.9	19.4	18.4	3.1	1.5	12 706	2.4

Least developed countries	Gross domestic product (GDP)													Population	
	Annual growth rate of GDP (constant United States dollars) (percentage)				Per capita GDP (constant United States dollars)		Per capita GDP (current United States dollars)		Gross fixed capital formation as percentage of GDP, current prices			Foreign direct investment as percentage of GDP		(Thousands)	Growth per year (percentage)
	1995-2000	2000-2005	2007	2008	2000	2008	2007	2008	2000	2007	2008	2000	2008	2008	2008
Mauritania	2.5	4.3	1.0	2.2	538	719	905	1 017	22.4	22.1	20.8	3.7	3.2	3 215	2.4
Mozambique	9.4	8.8	7.4	7.0	300	466	371	440	31.0	17.2	21.1	3.2	6.0	22 383	2.3
Niger	3.2	5.5	3.3	5.9	296	337	300	354	13.4	23.3	25.4	0.5	2.8	14 704	4.0
Rwanda	10.2	5.7	7.9	11.2	332	463	361	458	18.0	18.0	22.7	0.5	2.3	9 721	2.8
Sao Tome and Principe	1.6	6.4	6.0	5.8	996	1 423	919	1 108	35.8	64.1	65.4	5.0	18.3	160	1.6
Senegal	4.7	4.7	4.8	2.5	848	949	949	1 088	22.4	26.9	30.7	1.3	5.3	12 211	2.7
Sierra Leone	-10.1	12.8	6.4	5.5	106	178	360	418	8.0	6.7	14.5	4.2	1.3	5 560	2.6
Somalia	2.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	103	106	307	298	20.3	20.3	20.3	0.0	3.3	8 926	2.2
Togo	2.2	1.2	3.5	1.1	373	344	403	446	15.1	17.6	12.4	3.2	2.4	6 459	2.5
Uganda	6.4	6.6	8.6	9.5	323	437	443	500	17.8	22.4	23.8	2.9	5.0	31 657	3.3
United Republic of Tanzania	4.4	7.0	7.1	7.5	242	335	419	502	16.3	29.0	30.8	2.7	3.5	42 484	2.9
Zambia	2.7	4.8	5.8	6.3	382	478	943	1 144	17.2	26.4	25.1	3.8	6.5	12 620	2.5
Subtotal (non-oil exporters)	**4.1**	**5.3**	**6.6**	**6.8**	**280**	**353**	**368**	**436**	**18.5**	**22.8**	**24.1**	**2.1**	**5.1**	**423 391**	**2.8**
Subtotal (Africa)	**5.4**	**7.0**	**9.1**	**8.0**	**357**	**513**	**531**	**640**	**17.5**	**21.3**	**21.0**	**3.0**	**9.2**	**494 332**	**2.7**
Asia															
Afghanistan	-3.5	20.1	16.2	3.4	132	333	385	466	14.3	30.6	28.6	0.0	2.4	27 208	3.5
Bangladesh	5.2	5.4	6.4	6.2	317	438	435	494	23.0	24.5	24.2	1.3	1.4	160 000	1.4
Bhutan	6.9	7.7	21.4	6.6	833	1 352	1 843	1 933	49.1	38.7	39.7	0.0	2.2	687	1.6
Cambodia	7.1	9.3	10.2	6.0	212	377	603	769	18.3	19.4	21.0	4.1	7.3	14 562	1.7
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6.2	6.3	7.9	7.5	295	438	675	858	20.9	39.7	36.8	2.1	1.2	6 205	1.9
Maldives	8.3	4.8	6.0	5.8	1 503	2 333	3 509	4 131	26.3	52.1	44.7	2.1	4.3	305	1.4
Myanmar	6.8	6.8	5.5	2.0	205	324	375	578	11.8	15.5	14.9	2.9	1.0	49 563	0.9
Nepal	4.8	3.1	4.7	5.6	273	308	437	465	19.2	21.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	28 810	1.8

Least developed countries	Gross domestic product (GDP)													Population	
	Annual growth rate of GDP (constant United States dollars) (percentage)				Per capita GDP (constant United States dollars)		Per capita GDP (current United States dollars)		Gross fixed capital formation as percentage of GDP, current prices			Foreign direct investment as percentage of GDP		(Thousands)	Growth per year (percentage)
	1995-2000	2000-2005	2007	2008	2000	2008	2007	2008	2000	2007	2008	2000	2008	2008	2008
Timor-Leste	-3.7	0.9	16.2	6.8	241	224	426	518	37.6	28.1	23.2		0.1	1 098	3.2
Yemen	8.4	3.8	4.7	3.9	400	434	1 111	1 356	16.4	18.2	17.9	0.1	1.5	22 917	2.9
Subtotal	**5.3**	**6.1**	**7.0**	**5.2**	**282**	**399**	**489**	**593**	**20.5**	**22.9**	**22.3**	**1.3**	**1.8**	**311 356**	**1.7**
Pacific															
Kiribati	9.4	1.7	-1.8	6.3	442	422	741	804	50.2	77.5	77.3	38.4	2.5	97	1.6
Samoa	4.1	5.3	6.4	-3.4	816	1 081	3 041	2 988	14.2	9.1	8.7	-0.7	1.0	179	0.0
Solomon Islands	-2.5	1.1	10.0	6.0	608	651	1 173	1 284	18.3	12.0	12.6	0.4	11.5	511	2.5
Tuvalu	1.9	5.7	2.0	2.0	1 276	1 705	3 050	3 213	54.7	55.8	55.8	-7.5	5.2	10	0.4
Vanuatu	2.2	0.9	6.8	5.7	1 108	1 138	2 225	2 388	28.5	28.6	28.9	8.3	6.0	234	2.6
Subtotal	**0.9**	**2.1**	**7.4**	**3.5**	**750**	**825**	**1 719**	**1 804**	**22.3**	**19.4**	**19.8**	**3.0**	**4.0**	**1 030**	**2.0**
Latin America and the Caribbean															
Haiti	2.1	-0.5	3.2	1.3	272	248	663	717	12.9	12.1	12.9	0.4	0.4	9 876	1.6
Total least developed countries	**5.3**	**6.6**	**8.4**	**7.0**	**327**	**467**	**518**	**624**	**18.7**	**21.7**	**21.3**	**2.2**	**6.5**	**816 594**	**2.3**
Total developing countries	**4.4**	**5.4**	**7.7**	**5.7**	**1 288**	**1 819**	**2 749**	**3 165**	**23.2**	**27.1**	**29.3**	**3.7**	**3.6**	**5 418 736**	**1.4**

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division, National Accounts Main Aggregates database (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/introduction.asp, accessed on 10 February 2010); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Foreign Direct Investment database (www.unctad.org/Template/Page.asp?intItemID=1923, accessed on 1 February 2010), and UNCTAD Central Statistics and Information Retrieval Branch; United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, data online (http://www.un.org/esa/population, accessed on 15 March 2010).

Table 2
Poverty and hunger

Least developed countries	Population poverty rate (percentage)			Food insecurity					Population growth per year (percentage)	Refugees, internally displaced persons		Life expectancy	
				Population undernourished									
	International purchasing power parity dollar income of 1.25/day (estimate)		National estimate	Percentage		Percentage difference	Food crisis countries			In country (thousands)	Outside country (thousands)	Years	Change in years
	1990/99	2000/07	1998/04	1990/92	2004/06	1990-2006	•	+	2010	2008	2008	2005/10	1995-2010
Africa													
Angola	—	54	—	66	46	-20			2.7	16	172	43	2
Benin	—	47	29	28	19	-9			3.2	7	<0.05	57	2
Burkina Faso	71	57	46	14	10	-4			3.5	1	1	52	2
Burundi	86	81	68	44	63	19			3.0	126	288	50	4
Central African Republic	83	62	—	47	43	-4	•		1.9	206	126	45	-1
Chad	—	62	—	59	39	-20			2.7	497	58	51	-1
Comoros	—	46	—	—	—			+	2.3	—	<0.05	65	5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	59	—	29	76	47	•		2.8	1 615	404	47	4
Djibouti	5	19	—	—	—			+	1.8	10	1	55	2
Equatorial Guinea	—	—	—	—	—				2.6	—	<0.05	52	3
Eritrea	—	—	—	67	68	1	•		3.0	5	201	58	5
Ethiopia	61	39	44	71	46	-25	•		2.6	200-300	95	53	4
Gambia	67	34	61	20	30	10		+	2.8	15	2	59	4
Guinea	93	70	—	19	17	-2	•		2.3	22	12	56	5
Guinea-Bissau	52	49	66	—	—		•		2.2	8	1	46	2
Lesotho	56	43	68	15	15	0	•		0.9	—	<0.05	43	-13
Liberia	—	84	—	—	40		•		4.6	10	78	46	4
Madagascar	73	68	71	32	37	5		+	2.7	—	<0.05	59	4
Malawi	83	74	65	45	29	-16			2.8	11	8	48	1
Mali	86	51	64	14	11	-3			2.4	11	3	55	5
Mauritania	43	21	46	10	8	-2			2.4	27	46	64	4
Mozambique	81	75	54	59	38	-21		+	2.3	8	1	42	-4
Niger	78	66	—	38	29	-9		+	4.0	<0.05	1	57	6
Rwanda	—	77	60	45	40	-5		+	2.8	55	79	46	10

Least developed countries	Population poverty rate (percentage): International purchasing power parity dollar income of 1.25/day (estimate) 1990/99	2000/07	Population poverty rate (percentage): National estimate 1998/04	Food insecurity: Population undernourished: Percentage 1990/92	2004/06	Food insecurity: Population undernourished: Percentage difference 1990-2006	Food insecurity: Food crisis countries •	+	Population growth per year (percentage) 2010	Refugees, internally displaced persons: In country (thousands) 2008	Outside country (thousands) 2008	Life expectancy: Years 2005/10	Change in years 1995-2010
Sao Tome and Principe	—	34	—	—	—				1.6	—	<0.05	66	2
Senegal	54	53	—	28	26	-2		+	2.7	36	17	63	3
Sierra Leone	63	—	70	45	47	2			2.6	8	35	43	3
Somalia	—	—	—	—	—		•		2.2	1 288	582	48	4
Sudan	—	—	—	—	21				2.3	4 776[a]	437	59	3
Togo	—	39	—	45	37	-8		+	2.5	10	18	58	0
Uganda	64	52	38	19	15	-4			3.3	1 024	11	52	7
United Republic of Tanzania	73	89	36	28	35	7		+	2.9	322	4	53	4
Zambia	65	64	68	40	45	5		+	2.5	84	1	42	2
Asia						0							
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—				3.5	231	2856	44	2
Bangladesh	59	50	50	36	27	-9			1.4	28	17	64	5
Bhutan	—	26	—	—	—				1.6	—	106	66	7
Cambodia	49	40	35	38	26	-12			1.7	0	17	60	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	49	44	33	27	19	-8			1.9	—	9	64	5
Maldives	—	—	—	—	—				1.4	—	<0.05	69	5
Myanmar	—	—	—	44	19	-25			0.9	791	207	62	2
Nepal	68	55	31	21	15	-6			1.8	926	6	64	4
Timor-Leste	—	53	—	—	—		•		3.2	16	<0.05	61	6
Yemen	5	18	42	30	32	2		+	2.9	241	2	63	5
Pacific													
Kiribati	—	—	—	—	—				1.6	—	<0.05	—	—
Samoa	—	—	—	—	—				0.0	—	<0.05	72	3
Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—			+	2.5	—	<0.05	64	3

Least developed countries	Population poverty rate (percentage): International purchasing power parity dollar income of 1.25/day (estimate) 1990/99	2000/07	Population poverty rate (percentage): National estimate 1998/04	Food insecurity: Population undernourished: Percentage 1990/92	2004/06	Food insecurity: Population undernourished: Percentage difference 1990-2006	Food insecurity: Food crisis countries •	+	Population growth per year (percentage) 2010	Refugees, internally displaced persons: In country (thousands) 2008	Outside country (thousands) 2008	Life expectancy: Years 2005/10	Change in years 1995-2010
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—				0.4	—	<0.05	—	—
Vanuatu	—	—	—	—	—				2.6	<0.05	—	70	4
Latin America and the Caribbean													
Haiti	—	55	—	63	58	-5	•		1.6	36	36	61	4

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 10* (Washington, D.C.), table 2.6, and PovcalNet (http://go.worldbank.org/NT2A1XUWPO, update in progress); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2009 — Economic crises — impacts and lessons learned* (Rome, 2009); United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, data online (http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm, accessed on 15 March 2010); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Statistical Yearbook 2007*, tables 1 and 2, and additional analysis provided by the UNHCR Field Information and Coordination Support Section.

• "Food crisis" countries requiring external assistance (FAO, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008*, p. 21).

+ Countries severely affected by high commodity prices and at high risk of food crisis (FAO, 2008, p. 21).

[a] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimate.

Table 3
A. Universal primary education and gender equality in education

	Net enrolment ratio in primary education, per 100		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in secondary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in tertiary education*	
Least developed countries	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*
Africa								
Angola	—	—	—	0.8	0.8	—	—	—
Benin	—	93	0.7	0.9	0.5	—	0.3	—
Burkina Faso	36	61	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.5
Burundi	43	99	0.8	1.0	—	0.7	0.4	—
Central African Republic	—	66	—	0.7	—	0.6	0.2	0.3
Chad	54	—	0.6	0.7	0.3	—	0.2	0.1
Comoros	73	—	0.9	0.9	0.8	—	0.7	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	—	0.8	—	0.6	—	—
Djibouti	27	48	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	—
Equatorial Guinea	69	—	1.0	—	0.6	—	0.4	—
Eritrea	38	40	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	—
Ethiopia	41	79	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3
Gambia	73	72	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.3	—
Guinea	47	72	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.6	—	0.3
Guinea-Bissau	52	—	0.7	—	0.5	—	0.2	—
Lesotho	78	—	1.0	—	1.3	—	1.5	—
Liberia	75	—	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	—
Madagascar	68	—	1.0	1.0	—	0.9	0.9	0.9
Malawi	—	91	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.4	—
Mali	—	75	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Mauritania	63	77	1.0	1.1	0.8	—	—	—
Mozambique	56	80	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	—	—
Niger	27	50	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	—	0.3
Rwanda	—	96	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.5	—
Sao Tome and Principe	—	100	—	1.0	—	1.1	[a]	[a]
Senegal	58	75	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	—	0.5
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Somalia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudan	42	—	0.9	0.9	—	0.9	0.9	—
Togo	82	79	0.8	—	0.4	—	—	—
Uganda	—	97	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.8
United Republic of Tanzania	53	100	1.0	1.0	—	—	—	—

Least developed countries	*Net enrolment ratio in primary education, per 100*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in secondary education*		*Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in tertiary education*	
	2000	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*
Zambia	69	97	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	—
Asia								
Afghanistan	—	—	—	0.7	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	—	85	—	1.1	1.0	—	0.5	—
Bhutan	59	84	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.6
Cambodia	88	89	0.9	0.9	0.5	—	0.3	0.5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	79	82	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8
Maldives	99	96	1.0	0.9	1.1	—	*	—
Myanmar	—	—	1.0	1.0	1.1	—	—	—
Nepal	74	—	0.8	—	0.7	—	0.4	—
Timor-Leste	—	77	—	0.9	—	—	—	—
Yemen	59	73	0.6	0.8	0.4	—	0.3	—
Pacific								
Kiribati	—	—	1.0	—	1.6	—	*	—
Samoa	92	—	1.0	—	1.1	—	0.9	—
Solomon Islands	—	—	0.9	—	0.8	—	*	—
Tuvalu	—	—	1.0	—	—	—	*	—
Vanuatu	95	—	1.0	—	1.1	—	—	—
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

B. Adult literacy

Least developed countries	Adult literacy (aged 15+) (percentage literate)						Change in gender difference, 1995/04-2005/08 (percentage)	Change in adult literacy, 1995/04-2005/08 (percentage)
	1995/04			2005/08				
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total		
Africa								
Angola	54	83	67	52	83	70	-3	3
Benin	23	48	35	28	53	41	1	6
Burkina Faso	15	29	22	22	37	29	1	7
Burundi	52	67	59	60	72	66	-3	7
Central African Republic	33	65	49	41	67	55	-6	6
Chad	18	39	28	22	44	33	-1	5
Comoros	67	78	72	70	80	75	-1	3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	54	81	67	56	78	67	-5	0
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Equatorial Guinea	80	93	87	89	97	93	-5	6
Eritrea	40	65	53	55	77	65	-3	12
Ethiopia	23	50	36	23	50	36	0	0
Gambia	—	—	—	34	57	45	—	—
Guinea	18	43	29	26	50	38	-1	9
Guinea-Bissau	—	—	—	37	66	51	—	—
Lesotho	90	74	82	95	83	90	-4	8
Liberia	46	58	52	53	63	58	-3	6
Madagascar	65	77	71	—	—	—	—	—
Malawi	54	75	64	65	77	71	-9	7
Mali	16	33	24	18	35	26	0	2
Mauritania	43	60	51	50	64	57	-2	6
Mozambique	25	55	39	40	70	54	0	15
Niger	9	9	9	15	43	29	28	19
Rwanda	60	71	65	56	75	70	8	5
Sao Tome and Principe	78	92	85	83	93	88	-4	3
Senegal	29	51	39	33	52	42	-3	3
Sierra Leone	24	47	35	29	52	40	1	5
Somalia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudan	52	71	61	60	79	69	0	8
Togo	38	69	53	54	77	65	-8	12
Uganda	59	78	68	67	82	75	-5	7
United Republic of Tanzania	62	78	69	66	79	73	-2	4

Least developed countries	Adult literacy (aged 15+) (percentage literate)						Change in gender difference, 1995/04-2005/08 (percentage)	Change in adult literacy, 1995/04-2005/08 (percentage)
	1995/04			2005/08				
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total		
Zambia	62	81	69	61	81	71	1	1
Asia								
Afghanistan	13	43	28	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	41	54	47	50	60	55	-3	8
Bhutan	—	—	—	39	65	53	—	—
Cambodia	64	85	74	71	85	78	-7	4
Lao People's Democratic Republic	61	77	69	63	82	73	3	4
Maldives	96	96	96	98	98	98	0	2
Myanmar	86	94	90	89	95	92	-2	2
Nepal	35	63	49	44	70	57	-1	8
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen	35	73	54	43	79	61	-3	7
Pacific								
Kiribati	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samoa	98	99	99	98	99	99	0	0
Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vanuatu	73	78	75	80	83	81	-1	6
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	53	57	55	64	60	62	-7	7
Least developed countries	**44**	**64**	**54**	**50**	**67**	**58**	**-3**	**4**

Sources: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010, *Reaching the marginalized* (Paris, 2010), annex, tables 5, 8, 9A and 12, and updated data provided on 17 March 2010 by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (Montreal).

Note: Components may not add to totals owing to rounding.

Table 4
Infant and child health

	Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)				*Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)*				*1-year-old children immunized (percentage)*		*Children under 6 months exclusively breastfed (percentage)*	*Moderately or severely underweight children under 5 (percentage)*
	1990	*2000*	*2008*	*1990-2008*	*1990*	*2000*	*2008*	*1990-2008*	*Measles 2008*	*DTP3 2008*	*2003/08*	*2003/08*
Africa												
Angola	260	239	220	-40	154	141	130	-24	79	81	11	16
Benin	184	144	121	-63	111	89	76	-35	61	67	43	23
Burkina Faso	201	188	169	-32	110	102	92	-18	75	79	7	32
Burundi	189	178	168	-21	113	107	102	-11	84	92	45	39
Central African Republic	178	181	173	-5	116	119	115	-1	62	54	23	29
Chad	201	205	209	8	120	122	124	4	23	20	2	37
Comoros	128	114	105	-23	90	81	75	-15	76	81	21	25
Democratic Republic of the Congo	199	199	199	0	126	126	126	0	67	69	36	14
Djibouti	123	106	95	-28	95	84	76	-19	73	89	1	33
Equatorial Guinea	198	168	148	-50	120	102	90	-30	51	33	24	19
Eritrea	150	89	58	-92	92	58	41	-51	95	97	52	40
Ethiopia	210	148	109	-101	124	91	69	-55	74	81	49	38
Gambia	153	131	106	-47	104	93	80	-24	91	96	41	20
Guinea	231	185	146	-85	137	111	90	-47	64	66	48	26
Guinea-Bissau	240	218	195	-45	142	129	117	-25	76	63	16	19
Lesotho	101	109	79	-22	80	83	63	-17	85	83	36	20
Liberia	219	174	145	-74	146	118	100	-46	64	64	29	24
Madagascar	167	132	106	-61	101	83	68	-33	81	82	67	42
Malawi	225	162	100	-125	133	100	65	-68	88	91	57	21
Mali	250	217	194	-56	139	120	103	-36	68	68	38	32
Mauritania	129	122	118	-11	81	77	75	-6	65	74	16	31
Mozambique	249	183	130	-119	166	124	90	-76	77	72	37	18
Niger	305	227	167	-138	144	107	79	-65	80	66	4	43
Rwanda	174	186	112	-62	106	112	72	-34	92	97	88	23
Sao Tome and Principe	101	99	98	-3	65	64	64	-1	93	99	60	9
Senegal	149	131	108	-41	72	66	57	-15	77	88	34	17
Sierra Leone	278	252	194	-84	163	151	123	-40	60	60	11	30
Somalia	200	200	200	0	119	119	119	0	24	31	9	36
Sudan	124	115	109	-15	78	73	70	-8	79	86	34	31
Togo	150	122	98	-52	89	76	64	-25	77	89	48	21
Uganda	186	158	135	-51	114	98	85	-29	68	64	60	20

	Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)				*Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)*				*1-year-old children immunized (percentage)*		*Children under 6 months exclusively breastfed (percentage)*	*Moderately/ severely underweight children under 5 (percentage)*
	1990	*2000*	*2008*	*1990-2008*	*1990*	*2000*	*2008*	*1990-2008*	*Measles 2008*	*DTP3 2008*	*2003/08*	*2003/08*
United Republic of Tanzania	157	139	104	-53	97	87	67	-30	88	84	41	22
Zambia	172	169	148	-24	105	104	92	-13	85	80	61	19
Asia												
Afghanistan	260	257	257	-3	168	165	165	-3	75	85	—	39
Bangladesh	149	91	54	-95	103	67	43	-60	89	95	43	46
Bhutan	148	106	81	-67	91	68	54	-37	99	96	—	19
Cambodia	117	106	90	-27	85	80	69	-16	89	91	60	36
Lao People's Democratic Republic	157	86	61	-96	108	64	48	-60	52	61	26	37
Maldives	111	55	28	-83	79	43	24	-55	97	98	10	30
Myanmar	120	107	98	-22	85	77	71	-14	82	85	15	32
Nepal	142	85	51	-91	99	63	41	-58	79	82	53	45
Timor-Leste	184	129	93	-91	138	100	75	-63	73	79	31	49
Yemen	127	98	69	-58	90	71	53	-37	62	69	12	46
Pacific												
Kiribati	89	63	48	-41	65	49	38	-27	72	82	80	13
Samoa	50	34	26	-24	40	28	22	-18	45	46	—	—
Solomon Islands	38	37	36	-2	31	30	30	-1	60	78	74	21
Tuvalu	53	42	36	-17	42	35	30	-12	93	99	35	—
Vanuatu	27	29	33	6	23	25	27	4	65	76	40	—
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	151	109	72	-79	105	78	54	-51	58	53	41	22
Least developed countries	**179**	**150**	**129**	**-50**	**113**	**95**	**82**	**-31**	**76**	**78**	**39**	**33**

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children Special Edition, Statistical Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XX.2), tables 1-3.

Table 5
Reproductive health and health services

Least developed countries	*Skilled health personnel at birth (percentage of births)*		*Women with antenatal visit to skilled practitioner (percentage)*		*Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)*		*Contraceptive use, currently married women aged 15-49, any method (percentage)*	
	1995/02	*2003/08*	*1995/02*	*2003/08*	*2003/08 reported*	*2005 adjusted*	*1994/00*	*2001/09*
Africa								
Angola	45	47	66	80	—	1 400	8.1	6.2
Benin	66	74	81	84	400	840	16.4	17.0
Burkina Faso	31	54	61	85	480	700	11.9	17.4
Burundi	25	34	78	92	620	1 100	5.7	9.1
Central African Republic	44	53	62	69	540	980	14.8	19.0
Chad	16	14	42	39	1 100	1 500	4.1	2.8
Comoros	62	62	74	75	380	400	21.0	25.7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	61	74	68	85	550	1 100	31.4	20.6
Djibouti	—	61	67	92	550	650	9.0	17.8
Equatorial Guinea	65	65	86	86	—	680	10.1	—
Eritrea	28	28	70	70	1 000	450	8.0	8.0
Ethiopia	6	6	27	28	670	720	3.3	11.4
Gambia	55	57	91	98	730	690	—	17.5
Guinea	35	46	71	88	980	910	6.2	9.1
Guinea-Bissau	35	39	62	78	410	1 100	7.6	10.3
Lesotho	60	55	85	90	760	960	30.4	37.3
Liberia	51	46	84	79	990	1 200	—	16.4
Madagascar	46	51	71	80	470	510	19.4	39.9
Malawi	56	54	91	92	810	1 100	21.9	31.0
Mali	41	49	57	70	460	970	6.7	8.2
Mauritania	57	61	64	75	690	820	8.0	9.3
Mozambique	44	55	76	89	410	520	5.6	16.5
Niger	16	33	41	46	650	1 800	8.2	11.2
Rwanda	31	52	92	96	750	1 300	13.7	36.4
Sao Tome and Principe	79	81	91	97	150	—	—	29.3
Senegal	58	52	79	87	400	980	12.9	11.8
Sierra Leone	42	43	68	81	860	2 100	4.3	8.2
Somalia	34	33	32	26	1 000	1 400	7.9	14.6
Sudan	87	49	60	64	1 100	450	7.0	7.6
Togo	49	62	73	84	480	510	23.5	16.8
Uganda	39	42	92	94	440	550	14.8	23.7
United Republic of Tanzania	36	43	49	76	580	950	20.4	26.4
Zambia	47	47	83	94	590	830	25.9	40.8

Least developed countries	Skilled health personnel at birth (percentage of births)		Women with antenatal visit to skilled practitioner (percentage)		Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)		Contraceptive use, currently married women aged 15-49, any method (percentage)	
	1995/02	2003/08	1995/02	2003/08	2003/08 reported	2005 adjusted	1994/00	2001/09
Asia								
Afghanistan	12	14	37	16	1 600	1 800	4.9	18.6
Bangladesh	12	18	33	51	350	570	49.2	55.8
Bhutan	24	71	51	88	260	440	18.8	30.7
Cambodia	32	44	38	69	470	540	14.5	40.0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	20	27	35	410	660	18.6	32.2
Maldives	70	84	81	81	140	120	42.0	39.0
Myanmar	57	57	76	76	320	380	32.7	37.0
Nepal	11	19	28	44	280	830	28.5	48.0
Timor-Leste	26	18	43	61	—	380	22.6	10.0
Yemen	21	36	34	47	370	430	20.8	27.7
Pacific								
Kiribati	85	63	—	88	56	—	36.1	—
Samoa	100	100	—	—	29	—	24.5	—
Solomon Islands	85	70	—	74	140	220	—	34.6
Tuvalu	99	98	—	97	—	—	—	30.5
Vanuatu	88	74	—	84	150	—	39.0	—
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Haiti	24	26	79	85	630	670	48.0	32.0
Least developed countries	**—**	**38**	**—**	**64**	**—**	**870**	**—**	**30.0**

Sources: United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2009* (New York, 2009); United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children Special Edition, Statistical Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XX.2), table 8.

Table 6
HIV/AIDS prevalence and prevention

Least developed countries	HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49		Condom use at last high-risk sex (percentage)				Condom use rate of contraceptive prevalence (percentage)		Population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (percentage)		AIDS orphans (one or both parents died) (thousands)	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to that of non-orphans
			1995/01		2003/08				2003/08			
	2005	2007	Women	Men	Women	Men	1995/00	2003/08	Women	Men	2007	2003/08
Africa												
Angola	1.6	2.1	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	50	—
Benin	1.3	1.2	9	34	28	45	4	7	16	35	29	90
Burkina Faso	2.1	1.6	41	55	64	—	10	8	19	—	100	61
Burundi	3.5	2.0	—	—	25	—	1	3	30	—	120	85
Central African Republic	6.4	6.3	—	—	41	—	7	18	17	27	72	96
Chad	3.4	3.5	—	—	17	25	5	14	8	20	85	105
Comoros	<0.1	<0.1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	<0.1	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	—	—	16	36	7	17	15	21	—	77
Djibouti	3.1	3.1	—	—	26	51	—	1	18	—	5.2	—
Equatorial Guinea	3.7	3.4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4.8	—
Eritrea	1.2	1.3	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—	18	—
Ethiopia	2.4	2.1	17	30	28	50	4	1	20	33	650	90
Gambia	0.9	0.9	—	—	54		3	—	39	—	2.7	87
Guinea	1.2	1.6	17	32	26	37	10	12	17	23	25	73
Guinea-Bissau	1.8	1.8	—	—	39	—	1	7	18	—	5.9	97
Lesotho	23.9	23.2	—	—	50	48	6	13	26	18	110	95
Liberia	1.4	1.7	—	—	14	22	—	14	21	27	15	85
Madagascar	0.1	0.1	—	—	5	12	4	3	19	16	3.4	75
Malawi	13.3	11.9	32	38	40	58	7	4	42	42	550	97
Mali	1.5	1.5	14	31	17	36	6	5	18	22	44	87
Mauritania	0.7	0.8	—	—	—	—	2	4	5	14	3	66
Mozambique	10.3	12.5	—	—	44	—	5	7	14	—	400	89
Niger	0.7	0.8	7	30	18y	37	<0.5	<0.5	13	16	25	67
Rwanda	4.3	2.8	23	55	26	40	2	5	51	54	220	82
Sao Tome and Principe	—	—	—	—	56	—	<0.5	—	44	—	—	—
Senegal	0.4	1.0	—	—	36	52	5	13	19	24	8.4	83
Sierra Leone	1.3	1.7	—	—	10	22	2	7	17	—	16	83
Somalia	0.5	0.5	—	—	—	—	<0.5	<0.5	4	—	8.8	78
Sudan	1.4	1.4	—	—	—	—	<0.5	4	—	—	—	—
Togo	3.6	3.3	22	41	50	—	6	23	15	—	68	94
Uganda	7.9	5.4	25	42	38	55	5	7	32	38	1 200	96

Least developed countries	*HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49*		*Condom use at last high-risk sex (percentage)*				*Condom use rate of contraceptive prevalence (percentage)*		*Population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (percentage)*		*AIDS orphans (one or both parents died) (thousands)*	*Ratio of school attendance of orphans to that of non-orphans*
			1995/01		*2003/08*				*2003/08*			
	2005	*2007*	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*1995/00*	*2003/08*	*Women*	*Men*	*2007*	*2003/08*
United Republic of Tanzania	7.0	6.2	18	31	46	9	4	8	39	42	970	97
Zambia	15.4	15.2	20	39	38	48	14	12	34	37	600	93
Asia												
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	8	18	—	84
Bhutan	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Cambodia	1.5	0.8	—	—	—	84	2	7	50	45	—	83
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<0.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Maldives	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	23	—	—	—	—
Myanmar	0.9	0.7	—	—	—	—	<0.5	1	—	—	—	—
Nepal	0.5	0.5	—	—	—	78	7	10	28	44	—	—
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Pacific												
Kiribati	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Samoa	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vanuatu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	2.2	2.2	19	30	29	43	10	17	34	40	—	86
Least developed countries	2	2			30	46	—	—	19	28	—	86

Sources: UNAIDS, *2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic* (Geneva, 2008); United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children Special Edition, Statistical Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XX.2), table 4; and United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2009* (New York, 2009) (www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WCU2009/Main.html, accessed on 23 February 2010).

Table 7
Malaria and tuberculosis prevalence, mortality, prevention and treatment

Least developed countries	Malaria							Tuberculosis								
				Children under 5 years									Stop Tuberculosis Strategy			
	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 1,000 population	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population	Use of treated bed nets (percentage)		With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage)		High-burden country	Estimated cases per 100,000 population		Estimated deaths per 100,000 population		Case detection rate (percentage)		Treatment success (percentage)	
	2009	2006	2006	2000/04	2005/08	2000/04	2005/08	2009	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2008	2000	2007
Africa																
Angola	x	215	128	—	18	—	29		530	294	57	22		80		18
Benin		370	146	7	20	60	54		128	135	12	12		—		—
Burkina Faso	x	434	178	2	10	50	48		338	403	34	41		11		73
Burundi		278	94	1	8	31	30		455	647	46	68		20		83
Central African Republic		369	100	2	15	69	57		485	425	47	38				
Chad	x	399	173	1	—	32	—		420	497	43	51		18		54
Comoros		251	36	9	—	63	—		112	83	8	6		—		—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	x	389	158	1	6	52	30	x	592	659	65	77	35	43	78	87
Djibouti		47	14		1		10		761	1 104	70	91		45		78
Equatorial Guinea		390	220	1	—	49	—		274	469	22	48		—		—
Eritrea		4	2	4	—	4	—		114	134	12	13		76		90
Ethiopia	x	153	51	2	33	3	10	x	486	564	53	64	42	47	80	84
Gambia		282	106	15	49	55	63		491	404	53	43		42		58
Guinea		410	164		1		44		332	448	35	46		34		75
Guinea-Bissau		367	180	7	39	58	46		273	319	30	30		—		—
Lesotho		—	—	—	—	—	—		356	568	16	37		17		66
Liberia		408	171	—	—	—	59		435	398	46	41		—		—
Madagascar	x	34	12	0	—	—	34		359	417	39	45		42		78
Malawi	x	334	95	3	25	27	25		362	305	23	21		49		78
Mali	x	361	201	—	27	—	32		571	599	61	63		13		76
Mauritania		184	85	—	—	33	21		619	559	67	60		28		41
Mozambique	x	354	92	—	23	15	37	x	499	470	47	36	31	42	75	79

Least developed countries	Malaria							Tuberculosis								
				Children under 5 years									Stop Tuberculosis Strategy			
	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 1,000 population	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population	Use of treated bed nets (percentage)		With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage)		High-burden country	Estimated cases per 100,000 population		Estimated deaths per 100,000 population		Case detection rate (percentage)		Treatment success (percentage)	
	2009	2006	2006	2000/04	2005/08	2000/04	2005/08	2009	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2008	2000	2007
Niger	x	419	229	1	7	48	33		278	292	30	31		35		77
Rwanda		344	59	5	56	13	6		442	590	39	57		19		86
Sao Tome and Principe		67	19	23	42	61	25		272	240	30	26		—		—
Senegal	x	121	80	2	29	36	9		420	468	45	49		29		76
Sierra Leone		396	154	2	26	61	52		675	941	71	98		27		87
Somalia		72	41	—	11	—	8		414	352	67	55		49		89
Sudan	x	133	85	—	28	—	54		375	402	53	59		29		82
Togo		325	113	—	38	60	48		656	750	66	76		8		67
Uganda	x	355	145	—	10	—	61	x	364	343	30	27	37	43	63	75
United Republic of Tanzania	x	292	98	—	26	58	57	x	391	129	34	13	67	75	78	88
Zambia	x	313	121	7	41	52	43		658	387	47	25		74		85
Asia																
Afghanistan		22	0	—	—	—	—	x	346	271	41	34	18	55	88	87
Bangladesh	x	19	4	—	—	—	—	x	500	412	58	50	24	42	81	92
Bhutan		24	3	—	—	—	—		515	363	60	43		59		89
Cambodia	x	18	4	—	4	—	—	x	758	680	83	79	28	55	91	94
Lao People's Democratic Republic		4	1	18	41	9	8		344	289	27	22		43		92
Maldives		—	—	—	—	—	—		96	48	7	4		88		91
Myanmar	x	87	19	—	—	—	—	x	267	466	32	60	16	62	82	89
Nepal		1	0	—	—	—	—		312	240	28	22		63		88
Timor-Leste		475	93	8	—	47	—		644	378	70	47		87		79
Yemen		12	4	—	—	—	—		164	130	12	10		30		83
Pacific																
Kiribati		—	—	—	—	—	—		546	423	62	49		95		90

Least developed countries	Malaria							Tuberculosis								
				Children under 5 years									Stop Tuberculosis Strategy			
	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 1,000 population	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population	Use of treated bed nets (percentage)		With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage)		High-burden country	Estimated cases per 100,000 population		Estimated deaths per 100,000 population		Case detection rate (percentage)		Treatment success (percentage)	
	2009	2006	2006	2000/04	2005/08	2000/04	2005/08	2009	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2008	2000	2007
Samoa		—	—	—	—	—	—		27	25	3	3		—		—
Solomon Islands		218	30	—	—	—	—		300	180	33	21		61		90
Tuvalu		—	—	—	—	—	—		422	203	40	17		97		75
Vanuatu		134	14	—	—	—	—		143	102	16	12		70		90
Latin America and the Caribbean																
Haiti		17	8	—	—	12	—		403	366	53	47		45		82

Sources: World Health Organization, *World Malaria Report 2009* (Geneva, 2009); http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/epidemiology/pubfacts/en/; *Global Tuberculosis Control 2009: Epidemiology; Strategy; Financing* (Geneva, 2009); United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children Special Edition. Statistical Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XX.2), table 3.

Table 8
Improved water and sanitation

	Percentage of population with improved access to drinking water				*Percentage of population with improved access to sanitation*				*Annual population growth 2005-2010 (percentage)*	
	Urban		*Rural*		*Urban*		*Rural*			
Least developed countries	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*	*Urban*	*Rural*
Africa										
Angola	43	60	40	38	70	86	11	18	4.3	0.6
Benin	78	84	59	69	19	24	3	4	4.1	2.5
Burkina Faso	85	95	55	72	31	33	4	6	6.9	2.3
Burundi	89	83	70	71	46	49	45	46	5.8	2.5
Central African Republic	85	92	49	51	32	43	16	28	2.3	1.6
Chad	60	67	41	44	22	23	3	4	4.6	2.1
Comoros	93	91	92	97	42	50	23	30	2.5	2.2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	85	80	27	28	23	23	13	23	4.6	1.8
Djibouti	88	98	61	52	69	63	30	10	1.8	1.6
Equatorial Guinea	45	—	42	—	60	—	46	—	3.0	2.3
Eritrea	70	74	50	57	54	52	2	4	5.2	2.6
Ethiopia	88	98	18	26	26	29	5	8	3.5	2.4
Gambia	91	96	77	86	65	68	61	65	4.3	0.8
Guinea	88	89	51	61	27	34	9	11	3.6	1.5
Guinea-Bissau	79	83	45	51	43	49	7	9	2.5	2.1
Lesotho	92	97	69	81	35	40	28	25	3.8	-0.1
Liberia	82	79	44	51	23	25	4	4	4.9	3.5
Madagascar	73	71	24	29	15	15	8	10	3.8	2.2
Malawi	93	95	58	77	51	51	50	57	5.4	2.2
Mali	69	81	34	44	41	45	28	32	4.7	1.2
Mauritania	45	52	37	47	38	50	9	9	2.9	2.0
Mozambique	75	77	27	29	37	38	4	4	4.5	1.1
Niger	78	96	35	39	27	34	3	4	4.4	3.7
Rwanda	85	77	64	62	43	50	40	55	4.1	2.3
Sao Tome and Principe	86	89	70	88	27	30	15	19	3.0	-0.5
Senegal	90	92	48	52	66	69	31	38	3.2	2.2
Sierra Leone	75	86	44	26	21	24	5	6	3.5	2.2
Somalia	36	67	17	9	45	52	10	6	3.5	1.6
Sudan	73	64	55	52	58	55	20	18	4.1	1.0
Togo	83	87	39	41	24	24	5	3	4.1	1.3
Uganda	85	91	53	64	37	38	45	49	4.4	3.1
United Republic of Tanzania	86	80	45	45	29	32	22	21	4.6	2.3
Zambia	88	87	36	46	60	59	40	43	2.8	2.2
Subtotal Africa	**77**	**80**	**38**	**43**	**38**	**41**	**17**	**21**	—	—

Least developed countries	Percentage of population with improved access to drinking water				Percentage of population with improved access to sanitation				Annual population growth 2005-2010 (percentage)	
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural			
	2000	2008	2000	2008	2000	2008	2000	2008	Urban	Rural
Asia										
Afghanistan	36	78	17	39	46	60	28	30	4.6	3.1
Bangladesh	86	85	77	78	57	56	43	52	3.2	0.8
Bhutan	99	99	88	88	87	87	54	54	4.0	0.6
Cambodia	64	81	42	56	50	67	10	18	3.0	1.3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	77	72	40	51	62	86	16	38	5.6	0.1
Maldives	100	99	87	86	100	100	74	96	4.9	-0.6
Myanmar	80	75	60	69	81	86	59	79	2.9	-0.1
Nepal	94	93	81	87	47	51	19	27	5.0	1.2
Timor-Leste	69	86	47	63	55	76	25	40	4.8	2.8
Yemen	82	72	59	57	81	94	21	33	4.8	2.0
Subtotal Asia	**80**	**82**	**66**	**71**	**63**	**66**	**38**	**48**	—	—
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	67	71	49	55	34	24	15	10	4.9	-1.5
Pacific										
Kiribati	77	—	50	—	47	—	22	—	1.7	1.5
Samoa	92	—	88	—	100	100	100	100	-1.0	0.2
Solomon Islands	94	—	65	—	98	98	18	—	4.2	2.1
Tuvalu	95	98	93	97	87	88	79	81	1.4	-0.5
Vanuatu	93	96	66	79	57	66	36	48	4.3	2.0
Subtotal Pacific	**90**	—	**69**	—	**79**	**88**	**39**	—	—	—
Total least developed countries	**78**	**80**	**50**	**54**	**47**	**50**	**26**	**31**	**4.0**	**1.6**

Source: World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking-Water — 2010 Update* (Geneva and New York, 2010); United Nations Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision* (http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm, accessed on 5 April 2010).

Table 9
Communications

Least developed countries	*Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population*		*Telephone lines and mobile cellular subscribers per 100 population*							*Internet users per 100 population*	
			Fixed lines			*Mobile cellular*		*Total*			
	2000	*2008*	*2000*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
Africa											
Angola	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	4.6	37.6	5.2	38.2	0.5	3.1
Benin	2.4	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	6.0	41.9	7.0	43.0	1.2	1.9
Burkina Faso	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.0	3.0	16.8	3.6	17.7	0.4	0.9
Burundi	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.4	6.0	1.8	6.3	0.3	0.8
Central African Republic	0.9	—	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.5	3.6	1.7	3.8	0.2	0.4
Chad	0.5	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	16.6	1.4	16.7	0.4	1.2
Comoros	3.9	3.4	1.0	2.5	3.5	1.4	14.9	3.9	18.4	1.3	3.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	3.5	14.4	3.5	14.5	0.2	0.5
Djibouti	—	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.8	4.4	13.3	5.8	15.1	0.8	2.3
Equatorial Guinea	—	—	1.4	1.8	1.5	10.5	52.5	12.3	54.0	0.8	1.8
Eritrea	1.6	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	2.2	1.4	3.0	1.2	4.1
Ethiopia	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.2	2.4	0.9	3.5	0.2	0.5
Gambia	—	1.6	2.7	2.9	2.9	11.8	70.2	14.7	73.2	3.3	6.9
Guinea	0.7	—	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.7	39.1	2.0	39.3	0.5	0.9
Guinea-Bissau	2.2	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.3	2.7	31.8	3.4	32.0	1.8	2.4
Lesotho	8.2	—	1.2	1.9	3.2	9.9	28.4	11.8	31.5	2.2	3.6
Liberia	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.9	19.3	3.2	19.4	<0.1	0.5
Madagascar	7.2	3.6	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.9	25.3	2.3	26.2	0.5	1.7
Malawi	2.8	2.3	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.7	12.0	2.4	13.2	0.4	2.1
Mali	—	—	0.4	0.6	0.6	3.5	27.1	4.1	27.7	0.4	1.6
Mauritania	—	—	0.7	1.3	2.4	18.0	65.1	19.3	67.4	0.5	1.9
Mozambique	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	3.5	19.7	3.8	20.0	0.7	1.6
Niger	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.4	12.9	1.6	13.4	0.2	0.5
Rwanda	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.6	13.6	1.8	13.8	0.4	3.1
Sao Tome and Principe	—	—	3.3	4.7	4.8	5.1	30.6	9.8	35.4	13.3	15.5
Senegal	1.3	1.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	10.2	44.1	12.4	46.1	4.4	8.4
Sierra Leone	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.6	2.3	18.1	2.8	18.7	0.2	0.3
Somalia	—	—	0.4	1.2	1.1	6.1	7.0	7.3	8.1	1.1	1.1
Sudan	1.0	—	1.2	2.7	0.9	2.8	29.0	5.5	29.9	0.8	10.2
Togo	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	2.2	5.7	24.0	6.8	26.2	3.8	5.4
Uganda	1.3	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	4.2	27.0	4.5	27.6	0.7	7.9
United Republic of Tanzania	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	5.1	30.6	5.5	30.9	0.9	1.2
Zambia	2.2	3.4	0.8	0.8	0.7	4.0	28.0	4.8	28.8	0.7	5.6
Subtotal Africa	**1.3**	**0.9**	**0.5**	**0.7**	**0.8**	**3.2**	**20.1**	**3.9**	**20.9**	**0.7**	**2.7**

Least developed countries	*Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population*		*Telephone lines and mobile cellular subscribers per 100 population*							*Internet users per 100 population*	
			Fixed lines			*Mobile cellular*		*Total*			
	2000	*2008*	*2000*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
Asia											
Afghanistan	1.9	—	0.1	0.2	0.4	2.5	29.0	2.7	29.4	0.1	1.8
Bangladesh	—	6.1	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.8	27.9	2.4	28.7	0.2	0.4
Bhutan	—	13.5	2.2	4.8	4.0	3.0	36.6	7.8	40.6	3.2	6.6
Cambodia	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	6.3	29.1	6.6	29.4	0.3	0.5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	3.2	5.7	0.8	1.3	2.1	3.5	32.6	4.8	34.7	0.4	8.5
Maldives	74.0	—	9.1	10.9	15.4	39.0	142.8	50.0	158.2	6.6	23.5
Myanmar	2.8	2.8	0.5	0.9	1.6	0.2	0.7	1.1	2.4	<0.1	0.2
Nepal	16.4	—	1.2	1.6	2.8	0.4	14.6	2.0	17.4	0.5	1.7
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	2.7	9.2	2.9	9.4	—	0.2
Yemen	1.5	2.8	1.9	3.9	4.9	7.3	16.1	11.1	21.0	0.9	1.6
Subtotal Asia	**2.4**	**4.0**	**0.6**	**0.9**	**1.4**	**2.2**	**21.8**	**3.1**	**23.2**	**0.3**	**0.9**
Pacific											
Kiribati	—	25.8	4.0	4.8	4.1	0.7	1.0	5.4	5.2	2.2	2.1
Samoa	19.8	—	4.9	9.2	16.1	8.9	69.3	18.1	85.4	3.1	5.0
Solomon Islands	33.5	32.1	1.8	1.5	1.6	0.7	5.9	2.2	7.4	0.7	2.0
Tuvalu	—	—	7.0	7.7	15.2	5.1	20.2	12.8	35.4	20.6	43.0
Vanuatu	4.7	—	3.5	3.2	4.5	5.0	15.4	8.2	19.8	4.8	7.3
Subtotal Pacific	**20.9**	**18.1**	**3.1**	**3.8**	**5.2**	**3.3**	**18.9**	**7.0**	**24.1**	**2.4**	**4.1**
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	1.0	—	0.9	1.5	1.1	4.3	32.4	5.8	33.5	5.4	10.1
Total least developed countries	**1.8**	**2.1**	**0.5**	**0.8**	**1.0**	**2.8**	**20.9**	**3.6**	**21.9**	**0.6**	**2.1**

Source: Universal Postal Union, postal statistics database (http://www.upu.org, accessed on 21 April 2009); International Telecommunication Union, information and communications technology statistics database (http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/icteye/Default.aspx, accessed on 3 March 2010).

Table 10
Transportation

	Roads				*Railways*			*Air transport*			
	Total roads (km)		*Paved roads (percentage)*		*Route (km)*	*Freight (millions of ton-km)*		*Departures (thousands)*		*Air freight (millions of ton-km)*	
Least developed countries	*2000-02*	*2003-08*	*2000-02*	*2003-08*	*2000-08*	*2000-05*	*2006-08*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*
Africa											
Angola	51 429	—	10	—	—	—	—	4	3	61	71
Benin	—	19 000	—	10	758	—	36	2	—	12	—
Burkina Faso	—	92 495	—	4	622	—	—	3	17	12	—
Burundi	14 480	12 322	7	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central African Republic	24 307	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chad	33 400	40 000	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	12	—
Comoros	880	—	77	—	—	—	—	2	—	12	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	157 000	153 497	—	2	4 007	513	352	—	—	—	—
Djibouti	3 065	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Equatorial Guinea	2 880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eritrea	4 010	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	29 571	42 429	12	13	—	—	—	27	40	78	228
Gambia	2 700	3 742	35	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guinea	30 500	44 348	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guinea-Bissau	3 455	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesotho	5 940	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liberia	10 600	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madagascar	49 827	—	12	—	854	—	1	20.5	21	12	12
Malawi	—	15 451	—	45	797	87	33	5	5	4	2
Mali	15 100	18 709	12	18	—	—	—	1.5	2	—	—
Mauritania	7 660	11 066	11	27	728	—	7 622	4	1	13	—
Mozambique	30 400	—	19	—	3 116	—	695	7	11	7	7
Niger	14 658	18 951	26	21	—	—	—	2	—	12	—
Rwanda	12 000	14 008	8	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sao Tome and Principe	320	—	68	—	—	—	—	1	—	<0.1	—
Senegal	14 583	13 576	29	29	2 758	371	1 748	2	—	12	—
Sierra Leone	11 330	—	8	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	9	10
Somalia	22 100	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudan	11 900	—	36	—	4 578	1 164	766	8	7	37	47
Togo	7 520	—	32	—	—	—	—	2	—	12	—
Uganda	—	70 746	—	23	—	—	—	0.3	—	21	34
United Republic of Tanzania	88 200	78 891	4	9	2 600	1 900	728	6	5	3	1
Zambia	66 781	—	22	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—

	Roads				*Railways*			*Air transport*			
	Total roads (km)		*Paved roads (percentage)*		*Route (km)*	*Freight (millions of ton-km)*		*Departures (thousands)*		*Air freight (millions of ton-km)*	
Least developed countries	*2000/02*	*2003/08*	*2000/02*	*2003/08*	*2000/08*	*2000/05*	*2006/08*	*2000*	*2008*	*2000*	*2008*
Asia											
Afghanistan	21 000	42 150	13	29	—	—	—	3	—	8	—
Bangladesh	207 485	239 226	10	10	2 835	777	870	6	1	194	89
Bhutan	—	8 050	—	62	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cambodia	—	38 257	—	6	—	—	—	—	4	—	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	21 716	29 811	13	13	—	—	—	6	10	2	3
Maldives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—
Myanmar	27 966	27 000	11	12	—	—	885	10	30	1	3
Nepal	13 223	17 280	31	57	—	—	—	12	7	17	7
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen	65 144	71 300	16	9	—	—	—	15	14	32	33
Pacific											
Kiribati	670	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samoa	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	11	—	2	2
Solomon Islands	1 391	—	2	—	—	—	—	12	—	1	1
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vanuatu	1 070	—	24	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	4 160	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 10* (Washington, D.C., 2010). Additional data provided by the World Bank from its World Development Indicators database, 20 February 2010. Compiled from data of the International Road Federation, the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Table 11
Official development assistance to least developed countries, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee donors and Aid for Trade

A. Official development assistance

	Net donor disbursements[a]								
	1997-1998			*2007*			*2008*		
Donor country	*Current millions of United States dollars*	*Per cent of donor's total*	*Per cent of donor's gross national income*	*Current millions of United States dollars*	*Per cent of donor's total*	*Per cent of donor's gross national income*	*Current millions of United States dollars*	*Per cent of donor's total*	*Per cent of donor's gross national income*
Australia	177	18	0.05	687	26	0.08	765	26	0.08
Austria	113	24	0.05	253	14	0.07	280	16	0.07
Belgium	236	29	0.09	773	40	0.17	930	39	0.19
Canada	420	22	0.07	1 562	38	0.11	1 859	39	0.13
Denmark	529	32	0.31	1 075	42	0.34	1 097	39	0.32
Finland	99	26	0.08	365	37	0.15	400	34	0.15
France	1 340	22	0.09	2 958	30	0.11	3 056	28	0.11
Germany	1 188	21	0.06	3 019	25	0.09	3 628	26	0.1
Greece	8	5	0.01	110	22	0.04	144	21	0.04
Ireland	90	47	0.14	606	51	0.28	674	51	0.3
Italy	585	33	0.05	1 296	33	0.06	1 587	33	0.07
Japan	1 707	17	0.04	2 521	33	0.06	2 498	26	0.05
Luxembourg	24	23	0.14	146	39	0.36	162	39	0.38
Netherlands	810	27	0.22	1 805	29	0.23	2 028	29	0.23
New Zealand	32	22	0.06	84	26	0.07	101	29	0.09
Norway	509	39	0.33	1 322	35	0.34	1 496	38	0.33
Portugal	137	54	0.13	206	44	0.1	225	36	0.1
Spain	165	13	0.03	1 118	22	0.08	1 462	21	0.1
Sweden	481	29	0.22	1 357	31	0.29	1 543	33	0.32
Switzerland	285	31	0.1	488	29	0.11	498	24	0.1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	923	25	0.07	4 011	41	0.14	4 199	37	0.16
United States of America	1 353	17	0.02	6 113	28	0.04	8 270	31	0.06
Total	**11 211**	**22**	**0.05**	**31 874**	**31**	**0.09**	**36 904**	**30**	**0.09**

[a] Includes imputed contributions through multilateral organizations, calculated using the geographical distribution of multilateral disbursements for the year of reference.

B. Aid for Trade donor commitments

	Commitments (current millions of United States dollars)[a]								
	2006			*2007*			*2008*		
	Bilateral	*Multilateral*	*Total*	*Bilateral*	*Multilateral*	*Total*	*Bilateral*	*Multilateral*	*Total*
Aid for Trade, least developed countries	1 667	2 205	3 872	4 357	4 999	9 356	5 590	4 943	10 533
Total official development assistance to least developed countries			15 433			36 764			46 551
Aid for Trade as percentage of official development assistance			25			25			23

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, *Development Cooperation Report*, various years, table 31 (Paris); World Trade Organization and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum* (Geneva and Paris, 2009), and updated data provided by the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development from the Creditor Reporting System online database, 26 March 2010.

[a] Aid for Trade comprises trade policy and regulation, economic infrastructure, building productive capacity and trade-related adjustment, and replaces the narrower concept of trade capacity-building in the Doha Development Agenda trade capacity-building database (see World Trade Organization and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum* (Geneva and Paris, 2009)).

Table 12
Debt relief under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC) and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), and public and publicly guaranteed debt service

	Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative status and debt relief						*Debt service as percentage of least developed country exports of goods, services and income abroad*		
	HIPC status 2010		*Total debt relief[a]*						
			February 2009		*February 2010*				
Least developed countries	*Pre-decision*	*Post-completion*	*HIPC*	*MDRI*	*HIPC*	*MDRI*	*2000*	*2007*	*2008*
Africa									
Angola			—	—	—	—	21	10	3
Benin		x	366	604	388	633	12	—	—
Burkina Faso		x	772	603	818	638	15	—	—
Burundi		x	908	53	964	70	39	43	28
Central African Republic	x		611	—	633	146	—	—	—
Chad	x		227	—	240	—	—	—	—
Comoros			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	x		7 636	—	8 061	—	—	—	—
Djibouti			—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Equatorial Guinea			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eritrea			—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Ethiopia		x	2 575	1 458	2 726	1 512	13	4	3
Gambia		x	93	199	99	191	10	12	—
Guinea	x		761	—	807	—	20	13	10
Guinea-Bissau	x		581	—	615	—	—	—	—
Lesotho			—	—	—	—	11	7	3
Liberia	x		2 845	—	2 988	—	—	112	131
Madagascar		x	1 167	1 292	1 236	1 351	10	—	—
Malawi		x	1 310	705	1 388	733	13	—	—
Mali		x	752	1 043	797	1 097	13	—	—
Mauritania		x	868	450	920	465	—	—	—
Mozambique		x	2 992	1 057	3 169	1 107	13	1	1
Niger		x	899	519	953	542	8	—	—
Rwanda		x	908	225	963	234	24	3	—
São Tomé and Príncipe		x	163	26	173	27	26	39	—
Senegal		x	682	1 374	722	1 435	14	—	—
Sierra Leone		x	857	352	906	368	67	3	—
Somalia			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sudan			—	—	—	—	10	3	3
Togo		x	270	—	270	—	6	—	—
Uganda		x	1 434	1 805	1 520	1 879	8	2	2

Least developed countries	Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative status and debt relief						Debt service as percentage of least developed country exports of goods, services and income abroad		
	HIPC status 2010		Total debt relief[a]						
			February 2009		February 2010				
	Pre-decision	Post-completion	HIPC	MDRI	HIPC	MDRI	2000	2007	2008
United Republic of Tanzania		x	2 828	2 038	2 997	2 124	13	3	1
Zambia		x	3 489	1 632	3 697	1 701	21	3	3
Asia									
Afghanistan	x		571	—	600	38[b]	—	—	—
Bangladesh			—	—	—	—	9	4	4
Bhutan			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambodia			—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic			—	—	—	—	8	19	—
Maldives			—	—	—	—	4	5	6
Myanmar			—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Nepal			—	—	—	—	7	5	4
Timor-Leste			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen			—	—	—	—	5	3	2
Pacific									
Kiribati			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samoa			—	—	—	—	—	27	—
Solomon Islands			—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Tuvalu			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vanuatu			—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Latin America and the Caribbean									
Haiti	x		147	—	155	557		5	2
Least developed countries	**8**	**19**	**36 712**	**15 435**	**38 805**	**16 848**			

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 10* (Washington, D.C., 2010), tables 1.4 and 6.11, and World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance online (http://www.worldbank.org, accessed on 16 March 2010, with updates in progress).

[a] Data for 2009 are in net present value, millions of end-2007 dollars, and for 2010, net present value end-2008 dollars, cumulative, calculated by World Bank.

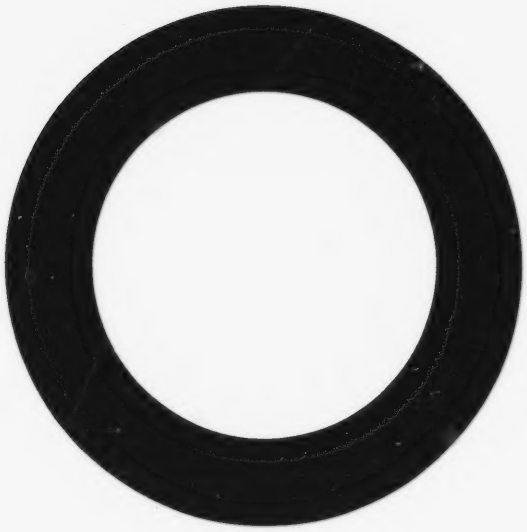
[b] Value in end-2008 net present value terms is not available.

Table 13
Selected international financial flows of the least developed countries
(Current billions of United States dollars)

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Official development assistance from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee donors	12.4	12.9	15.9	22.5	23.5	26.2	30.0	32.0	36.9
United Nations system expenditures on operational activities	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.5	3.9	5.4	5.3	5.9	7.0
Debt service	11.6	12.2	9.2	8.5	8.2	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.5
Foreign direct investment	4.1	7.1	6.8	10.9	9.6	15.9	22.7	25.7	33.1
Remittances and income abroad	6.1	6.6	8.4	9.5	10.8	11.9	14.1	17.5	23.0

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, *Development Cooperation Report*, various years, table 31 (Paris); United Nations, "Comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2007" (A/64/75-E/2009/59) and updated data provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Development Cooperation and Policy Branch, 22 March 2010; World Bank, *World Development Indicators 10* (Washington, D.C., 2010), tables 6.1 and 6.11, and World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance online (http://www.worldbank.org, accessed on 16 March 2010, with updates in progress); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Foreign Direct Investment database (www.unctad.org/Template/Page.asp?intItemID=1923, accessed on 1 February 2010) and UNCTAD Central Statistics and Information Retrieval Branch.

Note: World Bank and International Monetary Fund debt relief data are only available as a cumulative total, not by year. Debt relief of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee donors is included in official development assistance.



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High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Letter dated 20 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the national report of the Republic of the Congo on gender equality and the empowerment of women (see annex), to be presented at the annual ministerial review scheduled for the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Republic of the Congo should be grateful if the present letter and the report contained in the annex could be circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council under item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Raymond Serge **Bale**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2010/100.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National report of the Congo on gender equality and the empowerment of women

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Summary

In 2008, the Republic of the Congo drafted, adopted and began implementing a poverty reduction strategy paper, which is the coherent, consensual and single umbrella for its overall economic, social and political development policies. The poverty reduction strategy paper, a tool for negotiating with development partners, ensures coherence between sector and thematic policy papers aimed at effectively reducing poverty by 2015, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To that end, the National Gender Policy and Plan of Action 2009-2013 was drafted and adopted. The Government's overall objective is to reduce gender inequalities, in particular, by giving women greater economic, social, cultural and political power.

An analysis of the indicators shows that after the conflicts of the 1990s, progress was achieved with regard to gender inequalities in primary and secondary education. At the primary-school level, the gender parity index was 0.92 in 1990, 0.84 in 1995, 0.90 in 2000, and 0.92 in 2007. In the "*collège*" phase of secondary school, that figure was 0.80 in 1990, 0.82 in 1997 and 0.81 in 2007. In the "*lycée*" phase of secondary school, it was 0.35 in 1991, 0.53 in 2000 and 0.60 in 2007. As a result of that progress, gender parity by 2015 may be possible at the primary school level but will be difficult to achieve at the secondary school level.

As for maternal health, the maternal mortality rate remains high. Estimated at 890 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, it rose to 1,100 in 2002 and dropped to 781 in 2005. Current efforts are not sufficient to ensure achievement of the Goal by the target date, however, without scaling up current strategies.

With regard to equal participation in administrative and political life, the distribution of power at the executive, legislative, judiciary and political levels is very uneven. Since the 1990s, the percentage of seats held by women in Parliament went from 7.9 per cent in 1991, to 7.12 per cent in 1992, 24.3 per cent in 2002 and 21.2 per cent in 2007 and 2008. Female representation in the Government was 5.0 per cent in 1991 and 9.0 per cent in 1995; since the early 2000s, it has held steady at 13 per cent. Noteworthy, however, are the Government's political will and the zeal with which women are attempting to reverse these trends.

Concerning equal participation in economic life, Congolese legislation guarantees women's equal access to employment, equal pay and the right to maternity leave. Women in the informal sector, however, must grapple with a number of difficulties, in particular regarding access to credit through the formal financial system. Women's financial independence cannot become a reality without an overhaul of national commercial law and lending policies, taking into account women's needs and motivations, and the constraints they face.

With regard to violence, despite the existence of a legal framework affirming international obligations, acts of violence abound and are apparently regarded as commonplace. Action taken thus far will not serve to reduce violence against girls, adolescents and women unless punitive legislation is enforced.

With regard to the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, the Congo has had a Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Integration of Women in Development since 1992. The achievement of gender equality, however, is dependent upon its mainstreaming into the policies, programmes and projects of ministerial departments.

With regard to partnerships, the Government works with non-State actors, development partners and donors. They will provide technical support and financial assistance for the implementation of the Government's gender policy pursuant to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Congo's recent attainment of the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) sets the stage for the development of such partnerships.

1. Introduction

1. At the 2005 World Summit, the Heads of State and Government requested the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to ensure follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress.

2. To that end, the Government of the Republic of the Congo volunteered to give a presentation on the national development strategies it has adopted and implemented with the aim of reducing gender inequalities and disparities in development sectors.

2. Objectives and methodology

3. The purpose of this national report is to review and assess national development strategies implemented with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in general and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in particular.

4. The goal of the exercise is to: (i) familiarize the development community with the policies and situation of the Congo; (ii) provide feedback to the Congo on its performance; (iii) share lessons learned and replicable successful policies and good practices.

5. The drafting of this report was a participatory process. The initial draft done by a national consultant was reviewed, fleshed out and approved by representatives of Government authorities, civil society and development partners at a national workshop held in Brazzaville on 28 and 29 April 2010.

3. Main strategies for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women

6. The struggle for the emancipation of Congolese women, waged since independence by various female leaders and the Union révolutionnaire des femmes du Congo (Revolutionary Union of Congo Women) and carried on by women's civil society organizations, culminated in the adoption of legislation in favour of women.

7. With regard to the number of women in the Congolese population (51.7 per cent while men account for 48.3 per cent of the population), national opinion recognizes that gender equality is not merely a question of rights but also a challenge of sustainable human development.

8. In that context, the Government incorporated gender issues into its poverty reduction strategy paper and the National Plan for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Congo. Those two papers are complemented by a national gender policy. The Government's overall objective is to reduce gender inequalities, in particular, by giving women greater economic, social, cultural and political power.

9. In September 2002, the Congolese Government's decision to draft a poverty reduction strategy paper was driven mainly by its anxiousness to have a coherent, consensual and single umbrella for its overall economic and social development policies. This is the framework for drafting, implementing and assessing policies

capable of effectively reducing poverty by 2015, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Thus, the poverty reduction strategy is based on the following five strategies: (i) improvement of governance, consolidation of peace and security; (ii) promotion of economic growth and a stable macroeconomic framework; (iii) greater access of populations to basic social services; (iv) improvement of the social milieu; and (v) intensification of efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

11. In the poverty reduction strategy paper 2008-2010, gender comes under the sectoral analysis of governance, together with: (i) political governance; (ii) administrative and judiciary governance; (iii) economic and financial governance; (iv) decentralization; (v) departmental and local development; (vi) environment; and (vii) peace and security.

12. The strategies adopted include: (i) elaboration and implementation of the national gender policy; (ii) promotion of gender parity in education and effective involvement of women and men, girls and boys in decision-making at all levels; (iii) combating all forms of violence against women; (iv) promotion of women's rights; and (v) greater economic empowerment of women. Given its cross-cutting nature, gender is also taken into account in other sectors and themes at both the analytical and strategic stages.

13. In drafting the poverty reduction strategy paper 2011-2013, gender, as a cross-cutting issue, will be considered within the context of each sector.

14. Millennium Development Goal 3: "Promote gender equality and empower women", unlike the others, does not concern a specific sector or issue, as gender equality and empowerment of women underlie each of the other seven Goals.

15. This Goal will be achieved primarily through: (i) the reduction of gender inequality at all educational levels; (ii) the improvement of sexual and reproductive health; (iii) equal participation in administrative and political life; (iv) equal participation in economic life; and (v) reduction of violence against women.

16. The 2008 national gender policy defines the institutional framework and mechanisms in which equality and equity polices and their related programmes are elaborated, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

17. Thus, the Plan of Action 2009-2013 adopted in January 2009 within the context of implementing the national policy is based on seven strategies: (i) mainstreaming gender into development agencies, programmes and projects; (ii) improving women's productivity with a view to increasing their income; (iii) improving access to production support services; (iv) improving access to social services; (v) promoting equitable participation in the management of power, respect for rights and suppression of violence; (vi) strengthening institutional mechanisms; and (vii) improving women's social status.

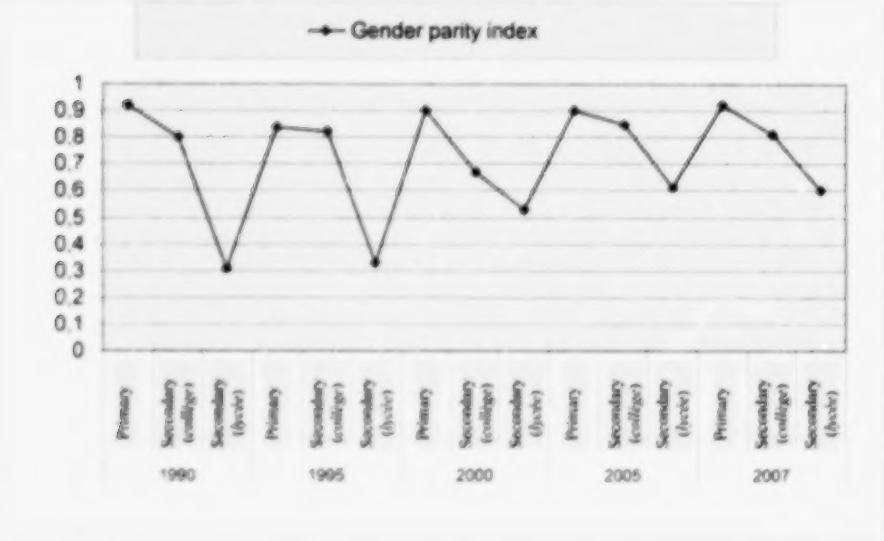
4. Assessment, progress achieved, constraints, lessons learned and challenges in implementing strategies

18. In order to reduce gender inequality in the various development sectors, issues have been specifically addressed in six areas: (i) reduction of gender inequalities in

primary and secondary education; (ii) improvement of maternal health; (iii) equal participation in administrative and political life; (iv) equal participation in economic life; (v) reduction of violence against girls and women; (vi) strengthening of institutional mechanisms.

4.1. Reduction of gender inequality in primary and secondary education

Figure I
Trends in gender parity in primary and secondary education



Source: Performance indicators of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy, 2000-2007.

19. The first cycle shows slight year-to-year fluctuations and no significant peaks. The gender parity index was 0.92 in 1990, 0.84 in 1995, 0.90 in 2000, and 0.92 in 2007. Girls' enrolment begins to decrease in the second year of school, with the sharpest decline coming right after the first year of primary school. In the first cycle of secondary school (*collège*), there are huge variations in the number of students. The index — 0.80 in 1990 and 0.82 in 1997 — dropped to 0.71 in 2002 and then rose slightly, attaining 0.81 in 2007. In the second cycle of secondary school (*lycée*), the index went from 0.35 in 1991 to 0.53 in 2000 and 0.60 in 2007.

20. Indigenous children still have little opportunity to attend school. According to the 2006 "Knowledge, attitudes and practices (CAP)" survey taken in indigenous areas, more than 65 per cent of adolescents are not enrolled in school. However, this situation is changing significantly among the indigenous population, particularly in the 10- to 13-year-old age bracket (60 per cent of boys and 45 per cent of girls).

21. Despite the considerable efforts of Government authorities to encourage school attendance, the school drop-out rate is high and a significant number of girls drop out of school before they achieve sustainable literacy.

22. This drop-out rate is attributable to, inter alia: (i) decreased purchasing power of some parents who cannot afford school tuition, school supplies, uniforms, or transport to school for their children; (ii) girls who, disillusioned by their elder siblings' failure to find employment, turn to the informal sector; (iii) sexual harassment; (iv) premature household responsibilities; (v) burden of domestic chores; (vi) early pregnancy; (vii) the pitfalls of adolescence.

23. Since the beginning of the decade, the Congo has engaged in specific sectoral actions to revitalize the educational system and guarantee primary education to all children. These actions include: (i) ensuring that pregnant girls are not excluded from the school system; (ii) the abolition of school tuition; (iii) free textbooks; (iv) recruitment of 9,755 teachers, including 7,162 primary school teachers, between 2000 and 2009; (v) implementation of a programme to build 581 new classrooms and install more than 11,000 desk tables since 2005; (vi) resumption of adult literacy activities and non-formal basic education at the national level.

24. While the quantitative results are fairly satisfactory, much remains to be done when it comes to quality. Indeed, 5 per cent of school-age children remain outside the mandatory education cycle. This category comprises girls, children of very poor parents (50.7 per cent living below the poverty line), indigenous children (32.6 per cent of the boys and 21 per cent of the girls) and children with mental or motor disabilities.

25. Gender parity in primary school is achievable by 2015 if the Government authorities make good on measures to ensure free access to primary education and school textbooks and if partners maintain their support.

26. While boys consistently outnumber girls in secondary school, those gaps are narrowing. Given the current situation, however, parity cannot be achieved by 2015. Measures must be taken to protect adolescent girls from sexual harassment and the growing phenomenon of unwanted pregnancies.

Challenges to be met

27. The challenges that must be met in order to keep girls in school and ensure progress towards achieving the target are:

- Introduction of affirmative action: merit scholarships to enable girls to pursue higher studies, internships for girls;
- Promulgation of the law on the protection of children and adoption of implementing legislation, taking into account the specific needs of girls;
- Elaboration and implementation of a recovery policy for girls who are not enrolled in school or have dropped out with a view to their socio-economic integration;
- Introduction of a policy to sensitize parents and local communities to the need to guarantee the conditions for keeping girls in school and ensuring their success.

28. **In view of these challenges, the Government of the Republic undertakes to:**

- **Developing and implementing a policy to provide equal access to, retain and ensure the success of girls in the educational system;**
- **Improving the system for collecting gender-disaggregated statistics.**

4.2. Improvement of maternal health

29. Reproductive health is characterized by a large number of maternal deaths. Estimated at 890 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, the maternal mortality rate increased to 1,100 in 2002 and declined to 781 in 2005. Young women between 20 and 24 years of age are the most severely affected (32 per cent), followed by adolescents under the age of 20 (25 per cent).

30. The primary causes of maternal death include: induced abortion (41 per cent), post-partum haemorrhage (40 per cent), post-abortion infection (18.8 per cent), post-partum infection (12.7 per cent), hypertension-eclampsia (11 per cent), obstructed labour (0.8 per cent) and its consequences (uterine rupture, vesico-vaginal fistula, sepsis), HIV/AIDS (6 per cent), malaria and others (20 per cent).

31. Post-natal consultations are still uncommon among mothers: only one out of four women sees a doctor after delivery. In addition, family planning services are virtually non-existent in health facilities, which explains the low rate of contraceptive use by women between 15 and 49 years of age, estimated at 14 per cent.

32. According to the Demographic and Health Survey, 27 per cent of girls have become mothers or have been pregnant before the age of 19 (just over one out of four girls between 15 and 18 years of age). These high-risk health practices (HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), pregnancy, abortion) are largely due to sexual initiation at a very young age (24 per cent of women between 15 and 24 years of age have had sexual relations before the age of 15), and ignorance and poor use of modern contraceptive methods, in addition to a context of widespread joblessness.

33. In terms of nutrition, 13.1 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years of age are underweight, while 70 per cent of pregnant women and 60 per cent of nursing women are anaemic.

34. The challenges are even more evident at the sector level and include: (i) the prohibitive cost of maternal health care in terms of household purchasing power; (ii) a lack of professionalism and ethics among workers; (iii) a dearth of facilities offering emergency obstetric care; (iv) a lack of basic materials and equipment at health facilities; (v) inadequate coordination of actions and financial resources.

35. In order to reduce the number of maternal deaths, the Government has formulated and adopted several policies and programmes, including the "*National Health-care Development Plan, 2007-2011*", the "*Health-service Development Programme*" and the "*National road map to accelerate the reduction of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality by 2015*". These initiatives have brought about a significant reduction in the maternal mortality rate, which went from 890 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, to 1,100 in 2002 to 781 in 2005.

36. Activities to improve maternal health include integrating prenatal follow-up care within all front-line health facilities (Integrated Health Centres) and hospitals; making malaria treatment free to mothers and children up to 15 years of age; provision of free medical care to people living with HIV/AIDS; distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets to mothers; provision of equipment and medication for basic and emergency obstetric and neonatal care to Integrated Health Centres and national referral hospitals; on-site training in/review of basic and emergency

obstetric and neonatal care and comprehensive first-aid care for maternal health-care workers and at Integrated Health Centres; systematic vaccination of pregnant women and children; systematic administration of iron to mothers and vitamin A to children and to mothers post-partum.

37. All of these programmes and strategies have benefited from a vertical system of implementation, from the central to the most decentralized level. They have transformed the Ministry of Health's community-based policies into a reality and have been effectively integrated into the various guidelines and technical instructions for the application of basic measures for health care and services.

38. However, these programmes have suffered from: (i) a lack of political will to implement the National Health-care Development Plan; (ii) limited funding for the health sector; (iii) a lack of direction in efforts to strengthen the health districts (all the referral hospitals, health centres and Integrated Health Centres within a given department); (iv) people's lack of involvement in their own health concerns.

39. The variation in maternal mortality rates by age group demonstrates that poor quality of care during pregnancy, delivery and post-partum is a problem.

40. This is a paradoxical situation, given that 88 per cent of pregnant women receive prenatal care, 86.2 per cent of deliveries are assisted by qualified staff and 82 per cent of women give birth in a health-care facility.

41. The goal of reaching a maternal mortality rate of 390 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015 cannot be achieved if current trends persist.

Challenges to be met

42. The challenges to be met in order to reduce maternal mortality and ensure progress towards achieving the target include:

- Strengthening management capacity at all levels by training staff responsible for prenatal care, deliveries and post-natal consultations;
- Increasing the budget in order to make low-cost services available, maintain and improve facilities and improve the system for supplying medications;
- Transferring responsibility for 60 per cent of expenses related to prenatal consultations and the provision of free Caesarean sections to the Government authorities;
- Expanding the programme for prevention of mother-to-child transmission throughout the entire country in the context of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

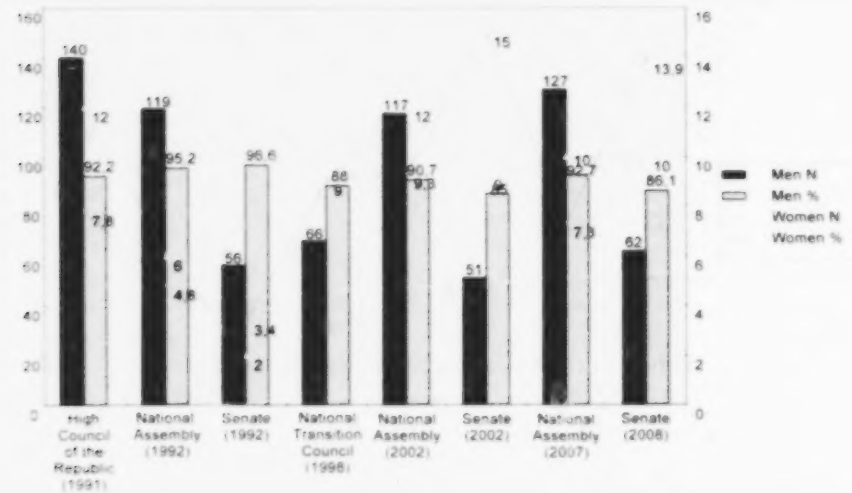
43. **The Government undertakes to:**

- **Make the reduction of the maternal mortality rate to 390 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015 a major priority;**
- **Implement the "National road map to accelerate the reduction of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality by 2015".**

4.3. Equal participation in administrative and political life

44. The political participation process is marked by insufficient community involvement in decision-making processes and by the exclusion of certain social groups, including women. Although the adoption of legislation reflects a degree of political will, the distribution of power at the executive, legislative, judicial and political levels is below the quotas for women's participation within all decision-making bodies and elected posts proposed by the African Union and the United Nations, respectively.

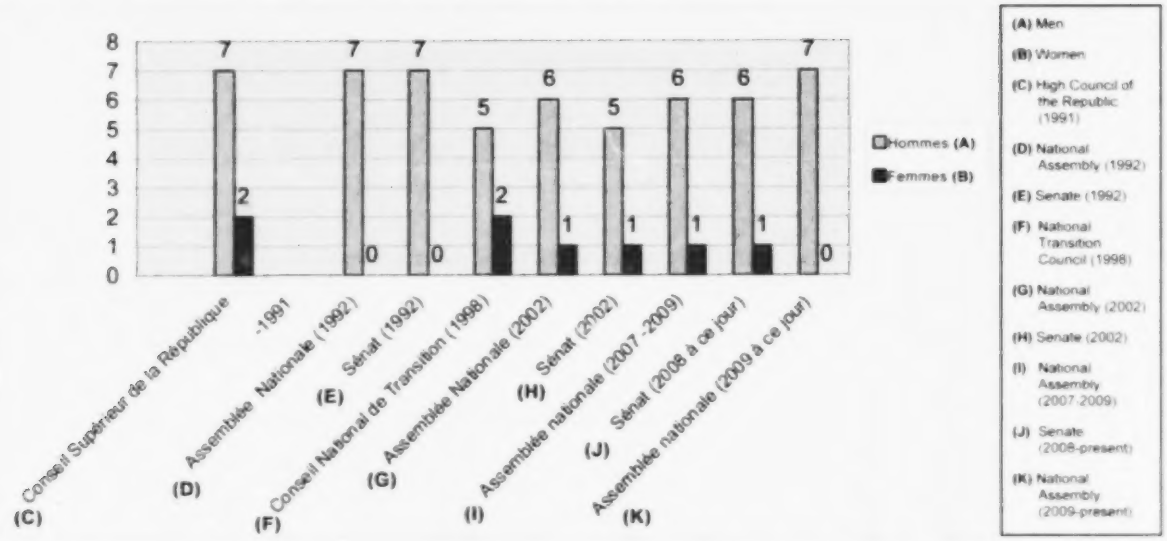
Figure II
Distribution of parliamentarians, by legislative body and gender



Source: Senate and National Assembly records.

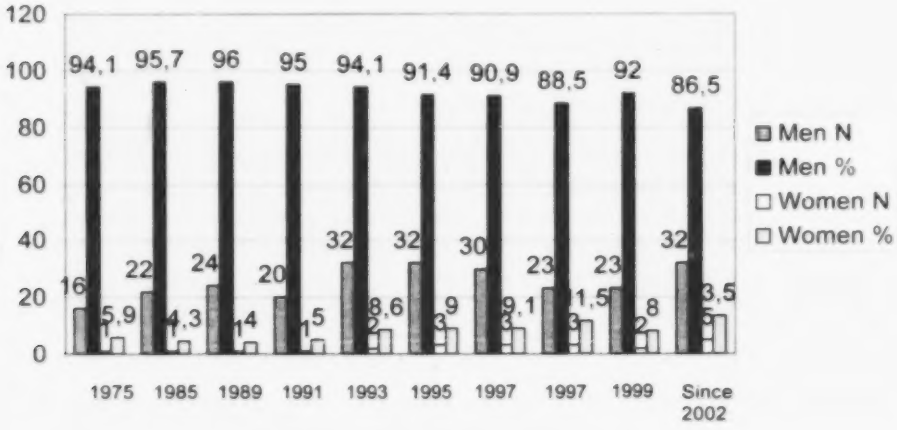
45. Figure II shows that since the 1990s, the number of parliamentary seats held by women rose from 7.9 per cent in 1991 to 7.12 per cent in 1992, 24.3 per cent in 2002 and 21.2 per cent in 2007 and 2008. Yet the mere presence of women in Parliament does not mean that these positions are equally shared in a realm generally dominated by men; the proportion of women in Parliament has never surpassed the threshold of two out of seven members, as demonstrated in figure III below.

Figure III
Distribution of members of Parliament, by legislative body and gender



Source: Records of the Senate and the National Assembly.

Figure IV
Distribution of members of Government by terms of office and gender



46. Within the Government, female representation was at 5.0 per cent in 1991, 9.0 per cent in 1995 and has remained unchanged at 13 per cent since the 2000s, as indicated in figure IV.

47. Within the high-level institutions of the Republic, women made up 14.3 per cent of the Supreme Court, 11.1 per cent of the Constitutional Court, 30 per cent of

the National Human Rights Commission, 16.6 per cent of the Court of Accounts and Budgetary Discipline and 9 per cent of the Freedom of Communication Council.

Table 1
Local government administration, by gender (2002 to the present)

	Men		*Women*	
Institution	*N*	*Per cent*	*N*	*Per cent*
Prefectures	12	100	00	0.0
Sub-prefectures (2008)	86	100	00	0.0
Presidents of departmental councils (2008)	11	100	00	0.0
Secretaries general of departments	11	91.6	01	8.4
Mayors of communes	06	100	00	0.0
Local councils (2008)	740	86.5	116	13.5

48. During the 1990s, women held the following posts in local government: one first deputy mayor in the commune of Brazzaville, eight mayors of arrondissements, twelve secretaries general of regional councils or arrondissements. From 2001 to 2003, women held the following posts: one second deputy mayor of a commune; two mayors of arrondissements; one sub-prefect; seven secretaries general of arrondissements and of department and/or district councils. Since 2008, 12 per cent of the number of departmental and municipal councils and 8.5 per cent of secretaries general of departments have been women. There are no women prefects, council presidents, commune mayors or sub-prefects.

Table 2
Distribution of leadership positions within ministries

	Men		*Women*		
Post	*N*	*Per cent*	*N*	*Per cent*	*Total*
Head of Department	36	92.3	03	7.7	39
Counsellor	96	89.7	11	10.3	107
Director-General	81	87.1	12	12.9	93
Director of central department	328	89.4	39	10.6	367
Chief of Section	301	94.1	19	5.9	320

Source: Data collected from 25 ministries (January 2009).[1]

[1] These included the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Economy and Finances, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Maritime Fishing, the Ministry of Maritime Transport, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Scientific Research, the Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Tourism, Health, the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Land Management, the Ministry of Hydrocarbons, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs.

Table 3
Distribution of leadership positions within the Parliament

	Men		*Women*		
Post	*N*	*Per cent*	*N*	*Per cent*	*Total*
Head of department	14	100	00	00	14
Counsellor	86	95.6	04	4.4	90
Secretary-General	01	86.3	01	13.7	02
Deputy Secretary-General	02	100	00	00	02
Director of central department	09	81.8	02	18.2	11
President of permanent commission	13	100	00	00	13

Source: Secretariat of the Senate and the National Assembly (2009).

49. Within the administration, a study of 27 ministries in 2009 revealed that 7.7 per cent of heads of departments, 10.3 per cent of ministry counsellors, 12.9 per cent of directors-general and 10.6 per cent of directors of central departments were women (table 2).

50. Women make up the majority of political parties and are the mobilizing force. While the legislative and local elections of 2002, 2007 and 2008 were uplifting for women, their leadership role within the parties remains minimal: out of about 100 political organizations, only three are headed by women.

51. However, Congolese women do enjoy a relatively favourable status. They are entitled to the same rights as men, and the discriminatory provisions remaining in the civil, penal and tax codes are currently under review.

52. While in practice, women still face some de facto inequality in the enjoyment of their rights, the following advancements should be noted: (i) the inclusion in the Constitution of 20 January 2002 of a provision (article 8) that guarantees and ensures the advancement and representation of women in all political, electoral and administrative posts; (ii) a rise in the number of women's non-governmental organizations and associations, surpassing the number of self-help groups; (iii) an emerging female political class made up of intellectuals; (iv) the establishment of the Centre for the Promotion of Women in Politics; (v) the development of a practical guide to elections for female candidates; (vi) the adoption of the gender national policy in 2008 and an action plan approved in 2009; (vii) an increase in the number of female candidates in legislative and local elections; (viii) the adoption (under way) of a draft bill on women's representation in political, electoral and administrative positions; and (ix) the signing by the President of the Republic of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

53. Government authorities have placed special emphasis on addressing gender inequality in all political and development documents (poverty reduction strategy paper and Millennium Development Goals). The current priority is to integrate the issue into all interventions at the sectoral level.

54. Nevertheless, eliminating gender disparity goes back to the social relationships between men and women and the different roles, responsibilities and social functions fulfilled by each. Stereotypes based on sex as well as the established

social order are some of the most deeply rooted concepts and constitute an obstacle to eliminating inequality and disparity and to reconsidering gender roles within the family and society.

55. Changing attitudes inevitably leads to questioning all the ideas that have been internalized since childhood. This process of questioning consequently leads to social mobilization and collective, consensual and participatory action, supported by deliberate efforts to change the systems of traditional values that underpin and legitimize stereotypes and discrimination.

56. A second challenge lies in increasing women's level of engagement with the issue through lobbying and advocacy work in associations, political parties and elsewhere in order to build broad popular support.

57. All of these actions are linked to political will which, through the implementation of legislation, could lead to the achievement of gender equality in all sectors.

58. Achieving 30 per cent female representation will not be feasible unless the law on women's representation in political, electoral and administrative positions is adopted, together with the necessary implementing legislation.

Challenges to be met

59. Challenges to be met in order to achieve equal participation in administrative and political life and ensure progress towards achieving the target include:

- Adopting the draft legislation on women's representation in political, electoral and administrative positions;
- Revising existing legislation to include a gender perspective, in particular the civil, family, tax and penal codes;
- Developing and implementing strategies to reduce the cultural barriers that impede women's advancement.

60. In view of women's low level of participation in decision-making bodies, the Government is committed to making women's representation in all positions a policy goal with a view to achieving 30 per cent representation by 2015.

4.4. Equal participation in economic life

61. Women's integration into the wage system has been commensurate with their access to the educational system and professional development. They have progressively been hired to do jobs that men no longer wish to perform, such as teaching at the primary level and secretarial work.

Table 4
Staffing trends in the civil service

	Men		Women		
Year	*N*	*Per cent*	*N*	*Per cent*	*Total*
1990	36 716	66.6	18 414	33.4	55 130
1993	36 849	65.8	19 134	34.2	54 983
2002	36 717	67.0	18 105	33.0	54 822
2004	45 769	67.5	22 068	32.5	67 837

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Security (1990) and Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reform (2002).

62. From 1990 to the present, the proportion of women has never exceeded 35 per cent. Indeed, in 1990, the records of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security showed that there were 55,130 civil servants, of whom 18,414, 33.4 per cent, were women.

63. According to the census of civil servants carried out by the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs in 2002, 33.0 per cent of civil servants were women.

64. Congolese law provides for the equality of men and women, except as regards the provisions relating to maternity leave. The Labour Code, which was revised in 1982, guarantees women's equal access to employment, equal pay and the right to maternity leave.

65. However, an examination of the various sectors of activity clearly shows that men and women are positioned differently in the labour market. In the best-paid job categories there are more men than women. In the private sector, an obstacle to the promotion of women is their higher rate of absenteeism, due to a variety of causes which are often related to their reproductive role.

66. It appears that working in the informal sector is a strategy adopted by households to diversify their income and a refuge for the young (boys and girls), who are increasingly exposed to the ravages of the economic crisis. Although such work allows families to increase their income and even gives women a certain degree of autonomy, it is precarious and insecure.

Table 5
Employment in the informal sector, by gender

Economic Sector	*Men %*	*Women %*	*Total %*
Agriculture	25	75	100
Livestock	87 (large animals)	13 (poultry)	100
Processing of agricultural products	Nearly 0	Nearly 100	100
Processing and sale of fishing products	40	60	100
Retailing and other activities	36	64	100

Source: Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Integration of Women in Development, 2010.

67. In agriculture, women represent nearly 75 per cent of the labour force. They are involved in the entire food production cycle (representing 60 to 80 per cent of the workforce), including harvesting, storage, processing (representing nearly 100 per cent of the workforce) and marketing.

68. Rural women use rudimentary and archaic means of production (hoes, machetes) that make their labour even more back-breaking. Women's workload is especially burdensome in the absence of appropriate technologies designed to reduce the time they need to spend on domestic chores and on the production, processing and storage of agricultural products. Lack of access to fuel and electricity is also an obstacle to the use of motorized equipment.

69. In addition, women must travel long distances to obtain water and firewood. Such excessive labour without respite significantly undermines their health, leading to premature ageing, lower productivity and increased morbidity and mortality. Moreover, women can only acquire land by inheriting it from their mother or father, through marriage or by leasing or purchasing it.

70. In the fishing industry, men and women perform different tasks. Commercial fishing and fishing on large bodies of water remain men's work, especially when practised at night. Women catch fish using traps, by hook and line, and by draining ponds and building weirs. Women carry out 60 per cent of the processing and marketing of fishing products. They also manufacture fishing equipment (e.g., baskets, traps and creels).

71. Hunting is done exclusively by men. Game meat may be sold by women but the proceeds generally go to the man, who decides how to spend them.

72. In the informal sector, women face various difficulties, the greatest of which is gaining access to credit through the formal financial system. The requirements of most banking institutions exclude the majority of women. This is because loan applications must include a pay slip, a trading certificate, an advance operating account and a contribution of at least 20 per cent. These terms force women to turn to traditional financial mechanisms such as tontines or to moneylenders who charge usurious rates.

73. Women working in the informal sector are not entitled to any benefits unless they receive family allowances or a pension as the wife or widow of a registered employee or civil servant.

74. Women's economic empowerment by 2015 will not be achievable unless the authorities develop and implement incentives and protective measures in the agricultural and commercial sectors and promote all commercial activities. Restoring farm roads and creating a women's development fund could accelerate women's economic empowerment.

Challenges to be met

75. Challenges to be met in order to achieve women's equal participation in economic life and ensure progress towards achieving the target include:

- Defining guidelines for the establishment of gender-disaggregated statistics, so as to accurately report on the work done by women in all development sectors;
- Reducing women's workload;

- Revising national commercial legislation and lending policies, taking into account women's needs, motivations and the constraints they face;
- Promoting a skills training and job training policy.

76. The Government undertakes to:

- Prepare and implement a strategy for the economic empowerment of women;
- Promote a lending policy benefiting low-income women.

4.8. Reducing violence against women and girls

77. Violence against women and girls, although often invisible, is omnipresent in Congolese society. Despite a legal framework that is in line with international standards, acts of violence are on the rise and do not seem to be regarded as anything out of the ordinary.

78. In the realm of marriage, a number of traditional discriminatory practices persist, including widowhood rites, the levirate and the sororate. Under the paternal roof, incest and rape are perpetrated by fathers, stepfathers, fathers-in-law, brothers, uncles and cousins. Sexual harassment is among the daily affronts that women and girls are subjected to at home, school and work and in the street.

79. Physical abuse is undoubtedly the most common form of violence inflicted on women. It is not known how widespread marital rape is because the victims are reluctant to report it.

80. Rape committed during armed conflict has remained shrouded in silence. Following the outbreak of hostilities in 1993, there was little focus on or study of it. Beginning in 1998, however, these crimes have been revealed by studies carried out by the Government with the support of development partners.

81. In order to remedy this situation, a number of measures have been taken, including: (i) the ratification of the majority of international human rights instruments (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa); (ii) the development, adoption and implementation of national instruments and mechanisms to guarantee the principle of legal equality between men and women; (iii) a penal code that criminalizes physical, corporal, sexual and psychological violence; (iv) the establishment of an observatory to monitor gender-based violence; (v) the establishment of a violence hotline; (vi) the establishment of legal clinics to provide counselling, assistance, orientation and care for female victims of violence; (vii) the drafting of legislation on sexual harassment and violence against women and girls.

82. Sadly, Congolese society appears to regard gender-based violence as normal, despite laws, customs, traditions and trends. Violence against women is a reflection of the reigning patriarchal practices, legitimized by tradition and religion which advocate women's submission and emphasize male superiority. They are a means for men to dominate women, a way of reminding women that they are inferior beings, and consequently do not have a say over their own bodies.

83. Moreover, men, and especially women, are not aware of either the national legislation or international treaties, which means they do not turn to the court

system in order to assert their rights. A lack of familiarity with legislation and court procedures, dysfunctional and remote judicial structures, the de facto dual system of customary law and modern law, and the fear of "witchcraft" are all factors that limit full enjoyment of their rights, by the Congolese people, particularly women.

84. Furthermore, rape cases are not heard by regular courts, but rather during sessions of the Criminal Court at which decisions are made by citizens' juries. However, it should be noted that sessions of this court are not held on a regular basis; the official reason given is financial constraints. This problem perpetuates a vicious circle of impunity and criminality.

85. The impunity of perpetrators creates a sense of resignation among victims, trivializes the crime and aggravates criminality and violence in Congolese society.

Challenges to be met

86. Challenges to be met in order to reduce violence against girls and women include:

- Providing tools to encourage ownership of legal instruments to those affected by violence, primarily the victims (widows, women, girls), but also the perpetrators;
- Increasing the justice department's funding capacity to convene annual sessions of the Criminal Court;
- Increasing the penalties for sex crimes.

87. **In order to strengthen the protection of women's rights, the Government undertakes to:**

- **Review the penal code of 13 August 1980, taking into account the emerging evidence of violence, including cases of rape, paedophilia and sexual harassment in school and professional environments;**
- **Enforce legislation that criminalize perpetrators of violence against girls and women.**

4.6. Strengthening of institutional mechanisms

Challenges to be met

88. Challenges to be met in order to strengthen institutional mechanisms include:

- Defining and disseminating the institutional framework for the national gender policy;
- Establishing a framework for coordinating gender as a cross-cutting issue at the governmental level;
- Implementing a system for collecting, processing and disseminating gender-disaggregated data across all sectors;
- Establishing gender units within all ministries.

89. **In order to improve the visibility of gender as an issue, the Government undertakes to:**

- **Mainstream gender into ministerial departments' development policies, programmes and projects;**
- **Strengthen the human, technical, material and financial resources of the ministry responsible for gender issues.**

5. Partnerships and funding requirements

Partnerships

90. Following its attainment of the completion point in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, indications of donor confidence and a favourable national outlook, the Congolese Government is boldly reaching out to new partners (bilateral, international non-governmental organizations) to seek assistance in the full realization of its gender policy.

91. The Government will work with non-State actors, development partners and donors, who will provide technical support and financial assistance to implement the national gender policy, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The principles of the Declaration are the following:

(a) ownership by the recipient country over its development policies and strategies, including improved coordination of actions to support national strategies;

(b) harmonization of common arrangements and simplification of procedures;

(c) alignment, requiring donors to base their overall support on the partner country's national development strategies, institutions and procedures;

(d) managing for results;

(e) mutual accountability to ensure that donors and partners meet their commitments.

92. The Government of the Republic of the Congo is dedicated to developing, coordinating and implementing plans, laws and other guidelines to meet the Goal. Furthermore, it will conduct follow-up and periodic evaluations of progress made towards meeting the targets in coordination with all stakeholders at the national and international level.

93. To that end, the Government will establish, within the National Council for Gender Equity, a mechanism for the targeted and optimal allocation, in coordination with development partners, of assistance in the six priority areas of its strategy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Resource mobilization

94. The goal of resource mobilization is to better predict aid, thus enabling the Congo to successfully conduct its national programmes to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

95. Funding for the implementation of the Gender Policy Action Plan, estimated at a total of 8,325,000,000 FCFA (US$ 16,650,000), will require significant support from development partners. Of the amount indicated, 4,995,000,000 FCFA (US$ 9,990,000) can be drawn from the national budget. Another 3.33 billion FCFA (US$ 6.66 million) will be needed.

Conclusion

96. Having overcome its status as the African country with the highest debt per capita, the Republic of the Congo is now in a much better position than it was 10 years ago to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

97. The contributions of the various economic sectors to the gross domestic product are extremely unequal, with the primary sector accounting for 4.5 per cent, the secondary sector for 73.7 per cent (of which 63.3 per cent comes from the petroleum sector) and the tertiary sector for 21.8 per cent.

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Chemicals volume of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments

Note by the Secretary-General**

Summary

The Economic and Social Council, by paragraph 1 of resolution 2008/13, invited the United Nations Environment Programme to continue updating the chemicals volume of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010. The present note transmits the introductory section of the Consolidated List which will be available in its entirety, in English only, from www.chem.unep.ch/.

* E/2010/100.

** The present report was submitted later than the indicated deadline to allow for further consultation with relevant Secretariat units.

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Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments

Contribution by the United Nations Environment Programme covering pesticides and industrial chemicals

I. Introduction

1. A review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments was included in the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/62/78-E/2007/62). The review encompassed the format, scope and content of the List, as well as its utilization and dissemination.

2. In addition, a report submitted by the Secretary-General to the 18th session to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session (E/CN.17/2010/5) provides background information on the role of chemicals in sustainable development and reviews the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") in the thematic area of chemicals. It notes that significant progress has been made in attaining the 2020 goal set at the World's Summit concerning the sound management of chemicals by means of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the implementation of related international legal instruments, the strengthening of information-sharing and risk communication, the establishment of programmes on risk assessment, reduction and prevention, and the development of indicators and monitoring.

3. The 2010 version of the Consolidated List was developed in continuation of the activity initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 37/137 of 17 December 1982. The contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) covers regulatory actions taken to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects from pesticides and industrial chemicals.

II. Scope and presentation

4. The 2010 version of the List includes information on control actions available from the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Both Conventions entered into force in 2004 and, by early May 2010, there were 134 parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 170 parties to the Stockholm Convention. The presentation is different from earlier versions, avoiding abbreviations and covering all relevant control actions and not just updates as was the case in the previous issues.

Rotterdam Convention

5. The objectives of the Rotterdam Convention are:

(a) To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm;

(b) To contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating the exchange of information on their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to parties.

6. The Convention promotes the exchange of information on a very broad range of chemicals, inter alia, through:

(a) The requirement for a party to inform other parties of each national ban or severe restriction of a chemical;

(b) The possibility for a party which is a developing country or a country with an economy in transition to inform other parties that it is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under conditions of use in its territory;

(c) The requirement for a party which plans to export a chemical that is banned or severely restricted for use within its territory to inform the importing party that such export will take place, prior to the first shipment and annually thereafter.

7. The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by parties and which have been notified by parties for inclusion in the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure. One notification from each of two specified regions triggers consideration of the addition of a chemical to annex III to the Convention. Severely hazardous pesticide formulations which present a hazard under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition may also be nominated for inclusion in annex III. The Conference of the Parties decides on the inclusion of new chemicals. Once a chemical is included in annex III, a decision guidance document, containing information concerning the chemical and the regulatory decisions to ban or severely restrict the chemical for health or environmental reasons, is circulated to all parties. Parties have nine months to prepare a response concerning the future import of the chemical. The response can consist of either a final decision (to allow import of the chemical, not to allow import, to allow import subject to specified conditions) or an interim response. The import decisions are circulated and exporting country parties are obligated under the Convention to take appropriate measures to ensure that exporters within its jurisdiction comply with the decisions.

8. More information on the Rotterdam Convention, including details of all notifications of control actions and import responses, is available from www.pic.int.

Stockholm Convention

9. The Stockholm Convention is aimed at protecting human health and the environment by reducing and/or eliminating releases of persistent organic

pollutants. These organic (carbon-based) chemical substances possess a particular combination of properties such that, once released into the environment:

(a) They remain intact for exceptionally long periods of time (i.e., many years);

(b) They become widely distributed throughout the environment as a result of natural transport processes involving soil, water and, most notably, air;

(c) They accumulate in living organisms, including humans, and are found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain;

(d) They are toxic to both humans and wildlife.

Persistent organic pollutants travel through the environment across borders and can be found in people and animals living in regions such as the Arctic, thousands of kilometres from any major source of such pollutants.

10. The Stockholm Convention addresses these border-crossing chemicals by requiring a number of control actions aimed at ultimate elimination of releases of persistent organic pollutants. The Convention covers pesticides, industrial chemicals and unwanted by-products. It initially covered 12 substances but in 2009 another 9 were added by the Conference of the Parties. Two of the substances (dioxins and furans) are by-products and, since they are not sold or used, are not included in the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments.

11. More information about the Stockholm Convention, the obligations of parties and control actions is available from http://chm.pops.int.

III. Regulatory actions

12. The records of regulatory actions in the List are available online and contain:

(a) Control actions extracted from three kinds of chemical listings of the Rotterdam Convention, namely:

(i) Notifications of final regulatory actions for banned or severely restricted chemicals already included in annex III of the Rotterdam Convention;

(ii) Notifications of final regulatory actions for banned or severely restricted chemicals not included in annex III but included in appendix V[1] to PIC Circular No. XXX of December 2009;

(b) Control actions required for the pesticides and industrial chemicals covered by the Stockholm Convention.

13. Each record of the regulatory actions contains the following information: name of country or entity of jurisdiction; chemical name; CAS registry number; date when the notification of regulatory action was circulated; category of use of chemical (pesticide or industrial chemical); type of regulatory action (banned or severely

[1] Part A of appendix V covers over 170 chemicals for which the notifications met the information requirements of annex I to the Convention and part B covers over 60 chemicals for which the notifications did not meet the information requirements.

restricted); use or uses prohibited; use or uses that continue to be allowed; and summary of the final regulatory action and date of its entry into force.

14. Records of regulatory actions are listed according to the alphabetical order of the chemical name and then in the alphabetical order of the country name or entity of jurisdiction, except for records referring to the Stockholm Convention which appear last. The table of chemical names provides the page number where the first record of regulatory actions for the chemical in question is to be found. A separate listing of CAS numbers can also be used to identify the chemical name and page where the first record is to be found.

15. The appendices available online provide separate listings of:

(a) Chemicals included in annex III to the Rotterdam Convention;

(b) Specific mercury compounds also covered by annex III to the Rotterdam Convention;

(c) Chemicals included in appendix V to PIC Circular No. XXX, that is, chemicals for which notifications of regulatory actions have been submitted but that are not included in annex III to the Rotterdam Convention;

(d) Parties to the Rotterdam Convention;

(e) Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

IV. Information sources

16. **Rotterdam Convention**. The website for the Convention is www.pic.int. The information referred to in the present report is readily available in both PDF and MS Word versions from, respectively, www.pic.int/en/Circular/CIRC-30-En.pdf and http://www.pic.int/en/Circular/CIRC-30-En.zip. Previous PIC circular reports are available from www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=50&sid=3. The name list for all annex III chemicals was derived from the Rotterdam Convention official statement, available from www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=29&sid=30.

17. **Access to information on regulatory actions**. The regulatory actions of annex III chemicals can be accessed by (a) chemical name (www.pic.int/reports/FRA-Parties-BY-AnnexIII-Chem-List.asp) or (b) party (www.pic.int/reports/FRA-Parties-List-AnnexIII.asp).

18. **Stockholm Convention**. The website for the Convention is http://chm.pops.in. Information on the Convention is available from http://chm.pops.int/Convention/tabid/54/language/fr-CH/Default.aspx. Information on persistent organic pollutants is available from http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ThePOPs/tabid/673/language/fr-CH/Default.aspx.

V. Conclusions

19. As noted in the most recent report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/63/76-E/2008/54), the Consolidated List, as originally mandated in 1982, had served its purpose of disseminating as widely as possible information available within the United Nations system on such products.

However, with the entry into force in 2004 of the two legally binding chemical conventions (Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention), much more accessible and detailed information can now be provided by the Convention secretariats by means of electronic and other media.

20. The 2010 version of the List consolidates information on control actions available from both the Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention and will be available prior to the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council from www.chem.unep.ch. As such, the most up-to-date information on the regulatory actions taken to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of pesticides and industrial chemicals will continue to be readily available from the Convention websites (see above). The Council may therefore again wish to consider whether it is still necessary to submit a separate report on the Consolidated List.